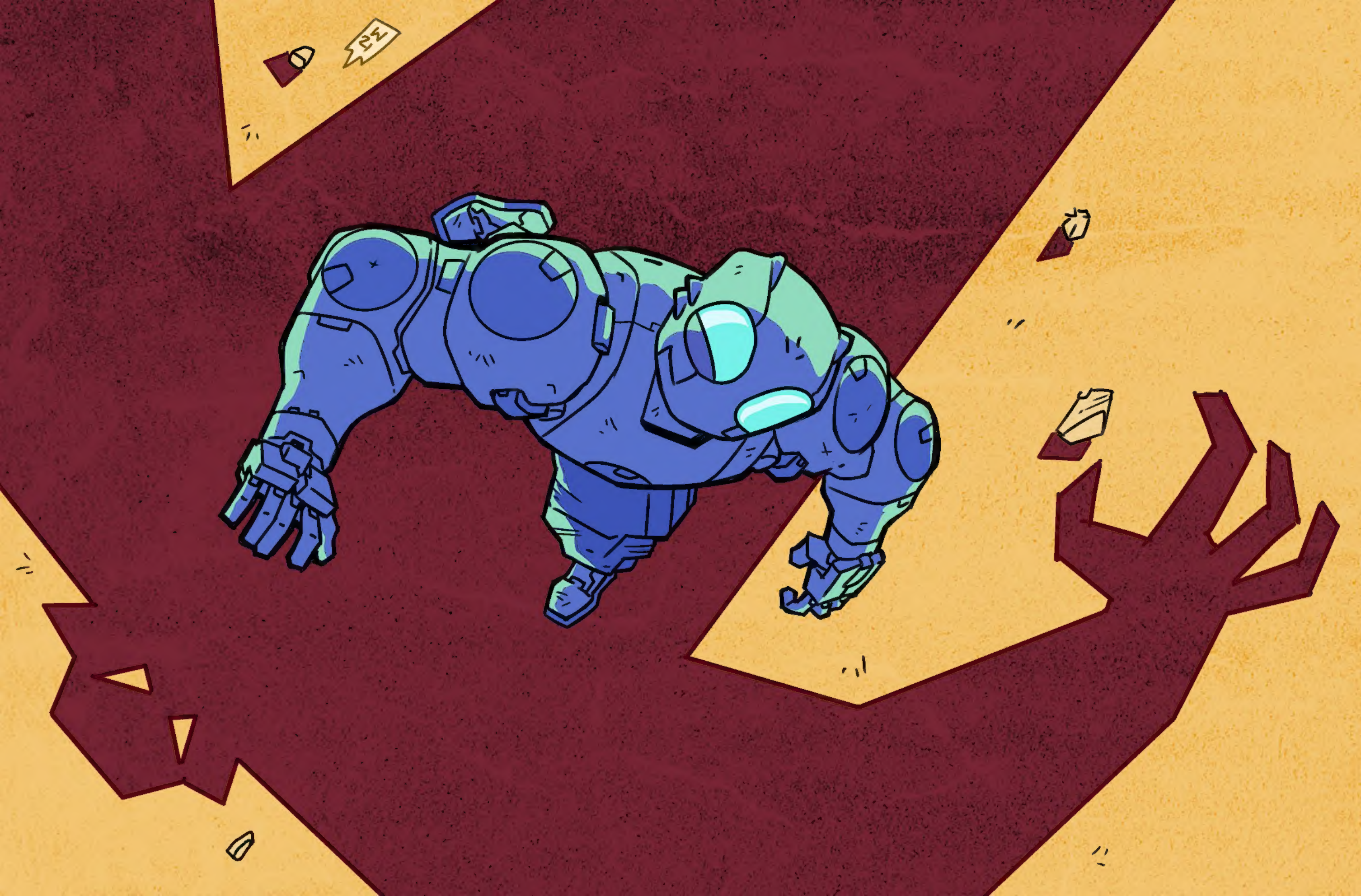


VAMPIRE DIMENSION

ZZWONGG

WE WILL PIERCE THE VEIL *BETWEEN* WORLDS.

WE WILL ESCAPE THIS *DEAD* EARTH.

WE WILL HUNGER *NO MORE!*

WE'RE AS READY AS WE'RE *GONNA* BE ON THIS END.

SAME HERE. THE MUNICH CONFERENCE *COULDN'T* HAVE GONE BETTER.

RUSSIAN NEUROSPACE FORCE
BAIKAL RESEARCH COMPLEX
MAY 2020

YOU DOUBLE CHECKED THE *MATH*, RIGHT? RIGHT?

TRIPLE CHECKED, PHIL.

BECAUSE WE'RE *BASICALLY* TURNING THE EARTH'S ORBIT INTO A *MASSIVE* ZORTH ACCELERATOR WITH LEY LINES AND I DON'T WANT TO DESTROY THE *PLANET*.

I'LL BE THE *FIRST* TO ADMIT THAT MEDDLING WITH ODIC FIELDS IS A *TERRIBLE* WAY TO STAY ALIVE.

BUT WE'RE BUFFERING IT WITH ZORTH MANIFOLDS, SO THE ODDS OF *ACCIDENTALLY* UNRAVELING SPACE-TIME ARE PRACTICALLY ZERO.

"PRACTICALLY" ZERO ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH.

*DON'T WORRY. IN ABOUT FIFTY-SIX HOURS THE **ENTIRE** EARTH WILL BE VAMPIRE PROOF.*

*YOU'RE A **RAY** OF SUNSHINE.*

THINKING *HAPPY* THOUGHTS NEVER *SAVED* ANYBODY.

JORNADA DEL MUERTO, NEW MEXICO.
39 HOURS TO ACTIVATION...

I'M INBOUND.

WHAT'S YOUR ETA?

ONBOARD GPS ESTIMATES SEVEN MINUTES FROM TARGET.

PERSONAL HUD CONFIRMS.

WE NEED YOU HERE NOW.

VWMMMM

CHECKING OPTIONS.

I CAN SHAVE A MINUTE IF I GO OFF ROAD BUT WINDOW'S CLOSING FAST.

TAKE IT, TAKE IT!

ROGER THAT.

WHUNK

FWNK

JUST HOLD ON A LITTLE LONGER.

NOT LIKE WE GOT A CHOICE!

VWWMMMMMM

TESLADYNE INSTITUTE

HEY, ROBO!

HOW WAS MUNICH?

IN GERMANY!

I'LL BE THERE **AND** CHANGED IN **TWO** MINUTES.

SUIT!

GO, GO!

BERNARD
FISHER
1975 - 2019*

IN THE SHADOW
OF NEW LIFE

*ESTIMATED

SHOULDN'T SOMEONE ***SAY*** SOMETHING?

WHAT ***CAN*** YOU SAY?

BERNIE WAS ***ALREADY*** AN OLD HAND BY THE TIME I CAME ON BOARD.

HE TOOK ME UNDER HIS WING ***FIRST*** THING.

PROBABLY BECAUSE I RAN AROUND SPOUTING CRAZY TALK ABOUT UNPREDICTABLE PHYSICAL LAWS LEAKING INTO ***OUR*** UNIVERSE FROM THE OUTSIDE.

HE NEVER *DISMISSED* IT. EVEN WHEN THERE WAS *EVERY* REASON TO.

HE ALWAYS HELPED ME FIND THE *BEST* VERSION OF MY INSANE THEORIES.

THAT WAS BERNIE.

ALWAYS THERE. *ALWAYS* LOOKING TO MAKE THINGS A LITTLE BETTER FOR THE *REST* OF US.

HE SHUT DOWN A VAMPIRE INVASION THE *FIRST* TIME WE MET.

HE WAS A *GOOD* SOLDIER.

IT JUST... I DUNNO.

IT DOESN'T MAKE *SENSE* THAT HE'S *GONE.*

LIKE, HOW DO YOU *HAVE* A TESLADYNE WITHOUT DOCTOR FISHER?

*BERNIE WAS ONE OF THE **FINEST** SCIENTISTS I'VE EVER KNOWN.*

*HE WAS MY **FRIEND.***

*AND I **HATE** TALKING ABOUT HIM IN THE PAST TENSE.*

HE'D STILL BE HERE IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME.

WHAT?!

HOLLOW EARTH CHANGED HIM. I NEVER SHOULD'VE LET HIM SOLO THE VOLCANO.

YOU DIDN'T. YOU GAVE HIM A ROBOTIC LIFELINE TO BRING HIM BACK IF ANYTHING WENT WRONG.

THEN WHY ISN'T HE HERE?

DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD'VE TALKED HIM OUT OF EXPLORING A VOLCANO IN OUR BACKYARD?

YOU GAVE HIM THE BEST CHANCE HE HAD TO COME BACK ALIVE.

BUT HE DIDN'T.

HE WAS SURVEYING UNEXPLORED LAVA TUBES.

THERE'S NOTHING WE COULD'VE DONE TO ELIMINATE ALL THE RISKS INVOLVED.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HIM, ROBO, IT WAS NOTHING WE COULD'VE CONTROLLED FOR. NO BODY. NO TRACE OF ONE.

Y'KNOW? I HALF EXPECTED HIM TO JUST WALK UP TO US BACK THERE.

YEAH. ME TOO.

WEIRD THAT ONE OF OUR PROFESSORS *DIED* BEFORE WE MET HIM.

I MET HIM.

ONLY IT WAS WHEN I WAS STILL A DISTRIBUTED INTELLIGENCE HIDING IN ROBO'S GARAGE SO HE DIDN'T KNOW I MET HIM.

DOES THAT COUNT?

DON'T *THINK* SO.

THAT'S A SHAME. HE SEEMED KIND.

HEY, *UH*, AM I THE *ONLY* ONE WHO THINKS IT'S *WEIRD* THAT WE TINKER WITH ALAN'S BRAIN LIKE HE'S OUR OWN PERSONAL SCIENCE PROJECT?

HOW *ELSE* ARE WE GONNA FIGURE OUT HOW HE WORKS?

ANYWAY, HE'S *COOL* WITH IT.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONCERN, OLIVIA, BUT I DON'T MIND.

OH, *MAN.* WHEN DID IT GET SO LATE?

WE GOTTA GET BACK TO THE *DORMS.*

OH, *UH.*

WE GOTTA REBUILD ALAN *FIRST.*

JUST MAKE SURE I'VE GOT A WORKING ARM. I CAN HANDLE THE REST BY MORNING.

SEE, LIKE, IT IS *SUPER* WEIRD THAT HE CAN DO THAT.

THE NEXT MORNING.
20 HOURS TO ACTIVATION...

ALAN! DO I WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOU WERE ALL NIGHT?

OR WHY YOUR ARM IS ON BACKWARDS?

IS IT OKAY TO LIE IF IT'S TO PROTECT MY FRIENDS?

ALAN, A LIE DOESN'T WORK WHEN YOU TELL ME IT'S A LIE.

ROBO.

JENKINS. WHERE DID YOU--

I READ YOUR MUNICH REPORT. THEY RATIFIED THE CROSSBOW RESPONSE.

THEY DID. I DON'T LIKE IT BUT I GET IT.

WE'RE ASKING FOR BILLIONS OF DOLLARS TO REPEL AN INTERDIMENSIONAL VAMPIRE INVASION USING ZORTH-ODIC SHENANIGANS.

IT IS IN EVERY WAY AN ABSURD PLAN. THEY HAVE TO FEEL LIKE THEY'RE STILL IN CONTROL.

THAT MEANS AUTHORIZATION TO CARPET BOMB ANYWHERE ON EARTH?

THEY'RE POLITICIANS, SO YES.

THEY JUST WANT TO KNOW THERE'S A **FAILSAFE** IN CASE OF A BREACH.

WHICH IS RIDICULOUS. EITHER OUR VAMPIRE SHIELD **WORKS** OR IT **DOESN'T.**

AND IF IT DOESN'T THEN WE'RE ALL **DEAD.**

EXACTLY. SO LET THEM THINK THEIR BOMBS CAN HELP.

THE BARRIER GOES LIVE IN **TWENTY** HOURS, SO LET'S RUN THROUGH SOME MORE EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS.

YOU'RE UP TO SPEED ON POWER **FAILURES** AND POWER **SURGES.**

HOW ABOUT **FLUCTUATIONS?** THE WORST OF **BOTH** WORLDS.

READY.

SIMULATION **ACTIVE.**

YOU'RE ON THE CLOCK

THESE ARE SMART, CAPABLE, KIDS *BRIMMING* WITH NEW IDEAS AND I *LOVE* THAT ABOUT THEM.

THAKKA

BUT THE THING IS, SCIENCE IS LIKE *THE* BIGGEST GROUP PROJECT IN THE WORLD.

SO, WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

THAKKA THAKKA

I DON'T *WANNA* DO IT, BUT I THINK WE HAVE TO TURN THEIR *FINAL* INTO ONE *BIG* GROUP PROJECT.

THEY SCREW *THAT* UP, THEY FLUNK *OUT.*

THAKKA

THE *BIG* GUNS. I LIKE IT.

BUT IT'S *GOT* TO HAVE A *SPECIFIC* GOAL. SOMETHING WHERE THEY CAN'T GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS.

YEAH, GOOD POINT.

ALSO? CAN WE *ALWAYS* DO TEACHER CONFERENCES LIKE THIS?

YES. YES WE CAN.

SO YOUR AUGMENTED TARGET RANGE *HIT THE MARK?*

...DID YOU JUST PUN?

WOW.

BULLSEYE.

HEY.

YOU *KNEW* THE RISKS WHEN YOU WALKED THROUGH THAT DOOR.

ANYWAY.

YEAH, LATENCY'S *PRETTY* MANAGEABLE NOW.

IT'S STILL *THERE* BUT YOU WON'T NOTICE IT UNLESS YOU *LOOK* FOR IT.

THAT'S *GREAT!*

AND YOUR MEETING?

FOLEY SAYS THEY'RE STILL STRUGGLING TO WORK AS A *GROUP,* SO SHE WANTS TO MAKE THEIR FINAL A PROJECT THAT'LL *FORCE* THEM TO HANDLE IT AS A *TEAM.*

WE JUST NEED A *CONCRETE* GOAL SO THEY CAN'T SPLIT UP *OR* DIVE TOO DEEP INTO CRAZY THEORIES THAT GO NOWHERE.

NO OFFENSE.

WOW.

YOU BRING *PUNS* TO THE DINNER TABLE, YOU'RE GONNA GET *BURNED.*

WELL, *SPEAKING* OF CRAZY THEORIES, *MINE* JUST GOT *SLIGHTLY* LESS CRAZY.

LOS ALAMOS RAN TEN *THOUSAND* SIMULATIONS OF THE ACCELERATOR ARCHITECTURE ROBO AND I ARE NOODLING ON AND 98% OF THE TIME IT DIDN'T EVEN EXPLODE!

SO, IT'S ONLY A *LITTLE* DANGEROUS.

AND I'M SURE WE CAN FIND A WAY TO IRON OUT THAT LAST *TWO* PERCENT.

JENKINS.

ROBO.

I THINK YOU'VE DONE **ENOUGH** TODAY.

PRESSURE MAKES ***DIAMONDS.***

YOU'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR **TEN** HOURS.

NINE HOURS AND FORTY-THREE MINUTES.

EVEN SO IT'S TIME TO GET SOME **SLEEP.**

SLEEP IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD THE ***GRAVE.***

OKAY, WE'RE DONE.

ONE MISTAKE, THE ***SLIGHTEST*** LAPSE, AND IT'S THE END OF ***EVERYTHING.***

THIS ***VAMPIRE SHIELD*** IS THE MOST IMPORTANT HUMAN ENDEAVOR IN ***HISTORY.***

AND WE'RE ACTIVATING IT ***TOMORROW,*** SO I NEED YOU AT 110 PERCENT.

GET SOME **REST.**

THAT'S AN **ORDER.**

CAN'T BELIEVE THE PHRASE **"VAMPIRE SHIELD"** IS A MAJOR PART OF MY LIFE NOW.

ALAN. THOUGHT YOU'D BE OUT BY NOW.

OH, NO. MY FRIENDS ARE EATING DINNER.

I FIND THAT MUCH MASTICATION UNSETTLING.

YEAH, IT'S WEIRD. YOU'LL GET USED TO IT EVENTUALLY.

THEY'LL TEXT ME WHEN THEY'RE DONE SO WE CAN HANG OUT.

AND NOT AT OUR DANGEROUS BUT SECRET CLUBHOUSE.

BWING

I DON'T THINK YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO TELL ME IT'S DANGEROUS.

OR SECRET.

OR THAT IT EXISTS.

DECEPTION IS SO DIFFICULT.

WELL, YOU SHOULD BE TRUTHFUL, BUT SOMETIMES THAT'S COMPLICATED.

DON'T LIE. JUST OMIT.

YES, I'LL TRY THAT. AH, MY FRIENDS TEXTED.

I'LL BE BACK LATER!

DETAILS OMITTED!

KIDS.

MEANWHILE, BAIKAL RESEARCH COMPLEX

SYSTEMS ACTIVE.

LEY LINES *NOMINAL.*

DSP-OD-3 SATELLITE FEED

CERES HEADQUARTERS
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

HEMISPHERE INTERLINKS *CONFIRMED.*

NETWORK AT *EIGHTY-FOUR* PERCENT SYNC AND CLIMBING.

ROBO, CAN YOU *CONFIRM?*

*ZORTH MATRIX IS **HOLDING,** DIRECTOR GULATI.*

*GRAVITICS ARE CLEAN. ORBITAL TURBULENCE IS **NEGLIGIBLE.***

*EVERYONE. WE **HAVE** A VAMPIRE SHIELD.*

DSP-OD-5 SATELLITE FEED

DID YOU KNOW YOU'VE GOT ***WI-FI*** IN HERE?

YES. BUT A SIGNAL INHIBITOR RESTRICTS IT TO THE DRONES.

ROBO SAYS AN UNRESTRICTED CONNECTION RISKS A TOTAL OBJECTIVITY VORTEX THAT COULD DESTROY MY MIND.

C'MON, NO ***BRAIN*** SURGERY AT THE ***STUDY*** SESSION, BEN.

HIMBO

IT'S NOT HIS BRAIN. IT'S STUFF ***ATTACHED*** TO HIS BRAIN

THAT'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE IT ***LESS*** WEIRD?

WE NEED A ***PLAN.*** WHAT'S ***WRONG*** WITH THE SOLAR TOWER?

WE'LL FIGURE ***SOMETHING*** OUT.

THAT'S A ***GOAL,*** NOT A ***PLAN.***

IS THERE A FUNDAMENTAL ***FLAW*** IN THE DESIGN? IS IT THE ***SOFTWARE?*** THE ***HARDWARE?***

IS IT JUST ***BROKEN?*** ARE WE LOOKING AT ONE PROBLEM OR FAILURES ACROSS ***MULTIPLE*** SYSTEMS?

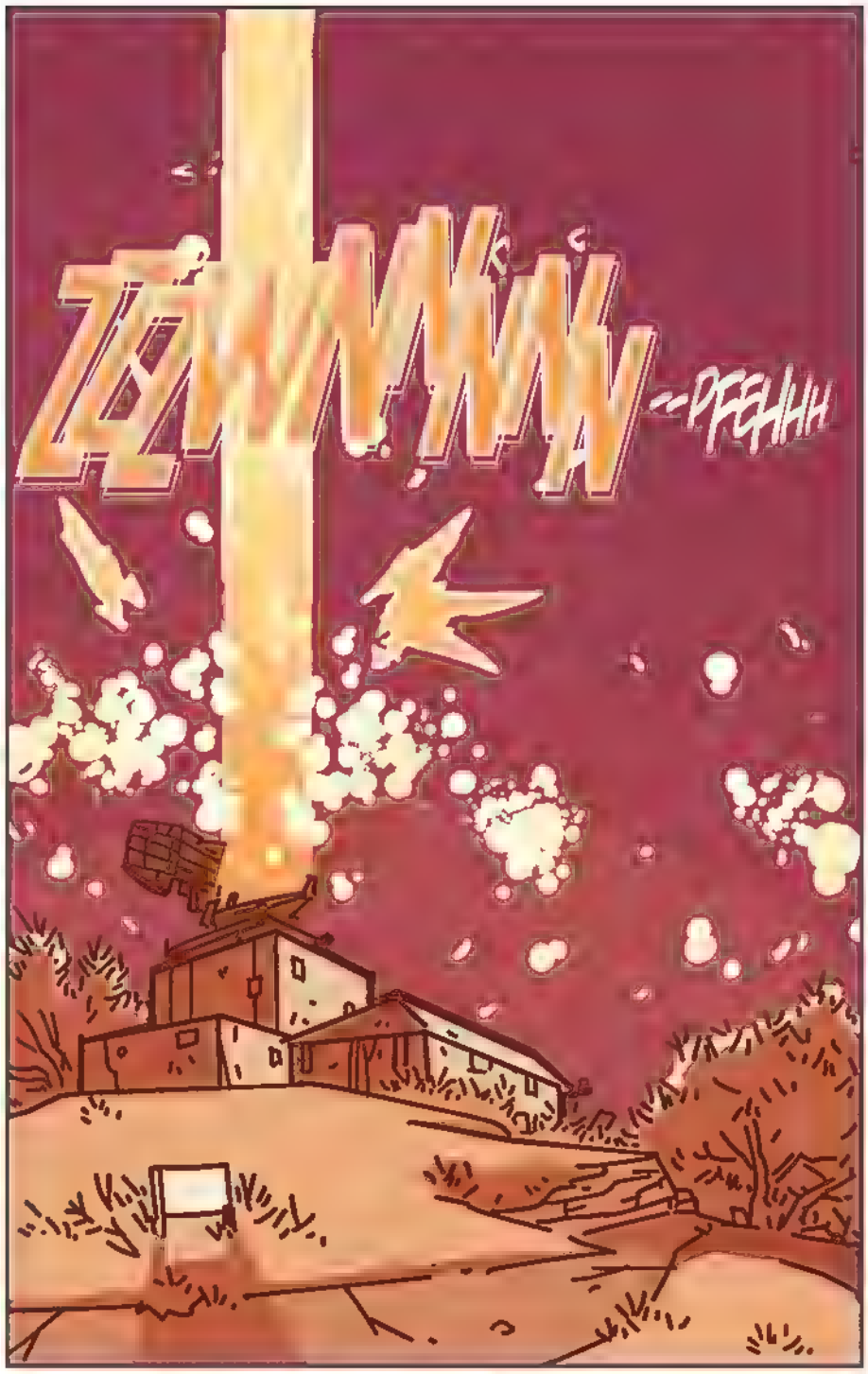
COULD BE ***ALL*** THAT.

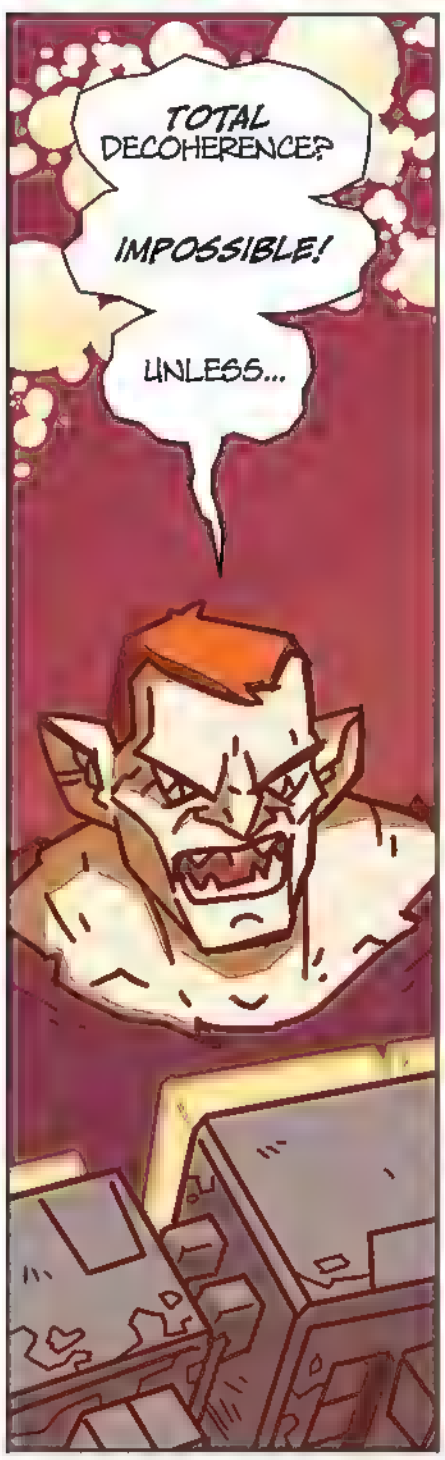
AND WHATEVER WE FIX COULD BREAK OTHER SYSTEMS.

HOW ARE YOU GUYS NOT STRESSING OUT ABOUT ***EVERY SINGLE THING*** WE'RE SAYING?

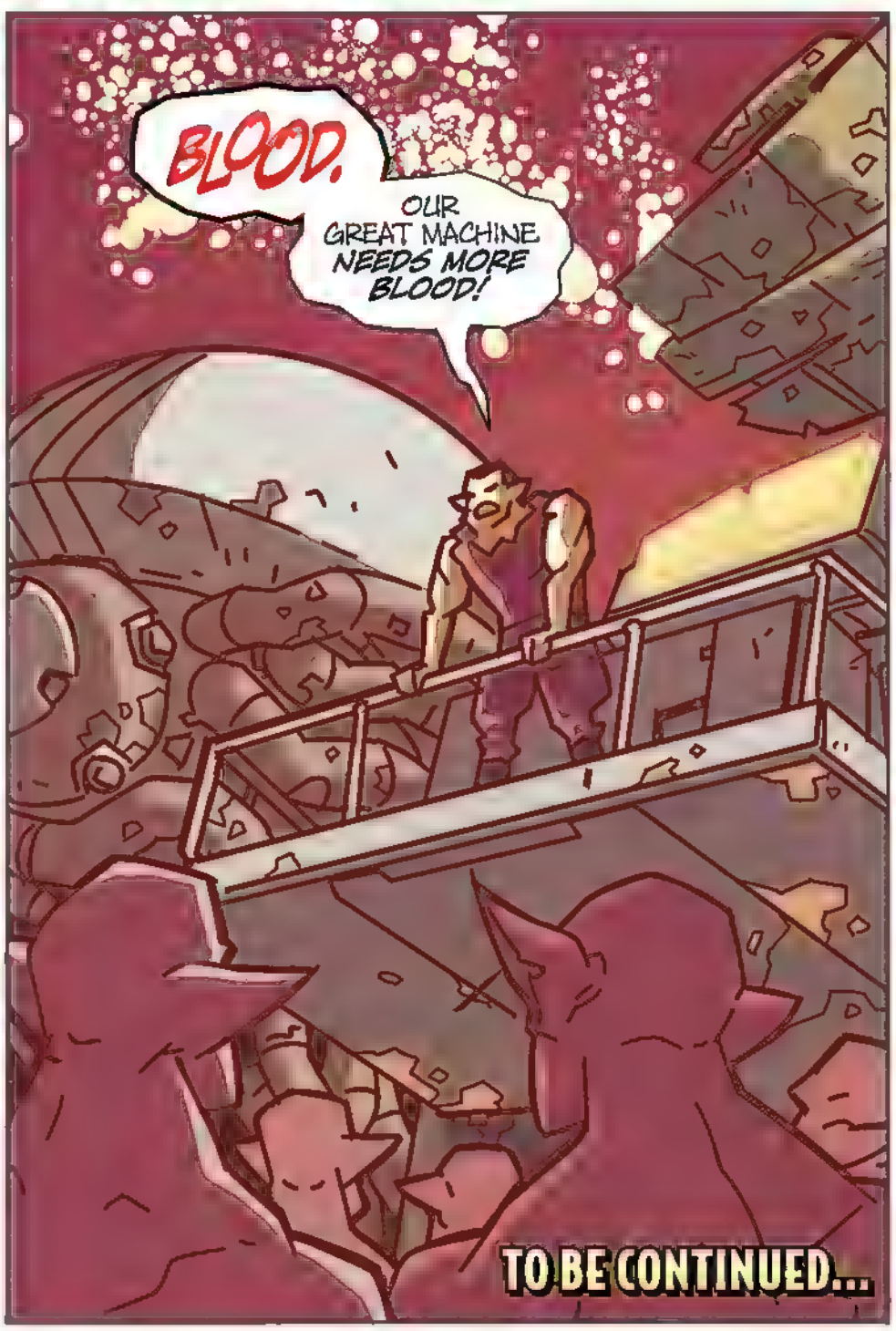
RELAX. IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S THE END OF THE ***WORLD.***

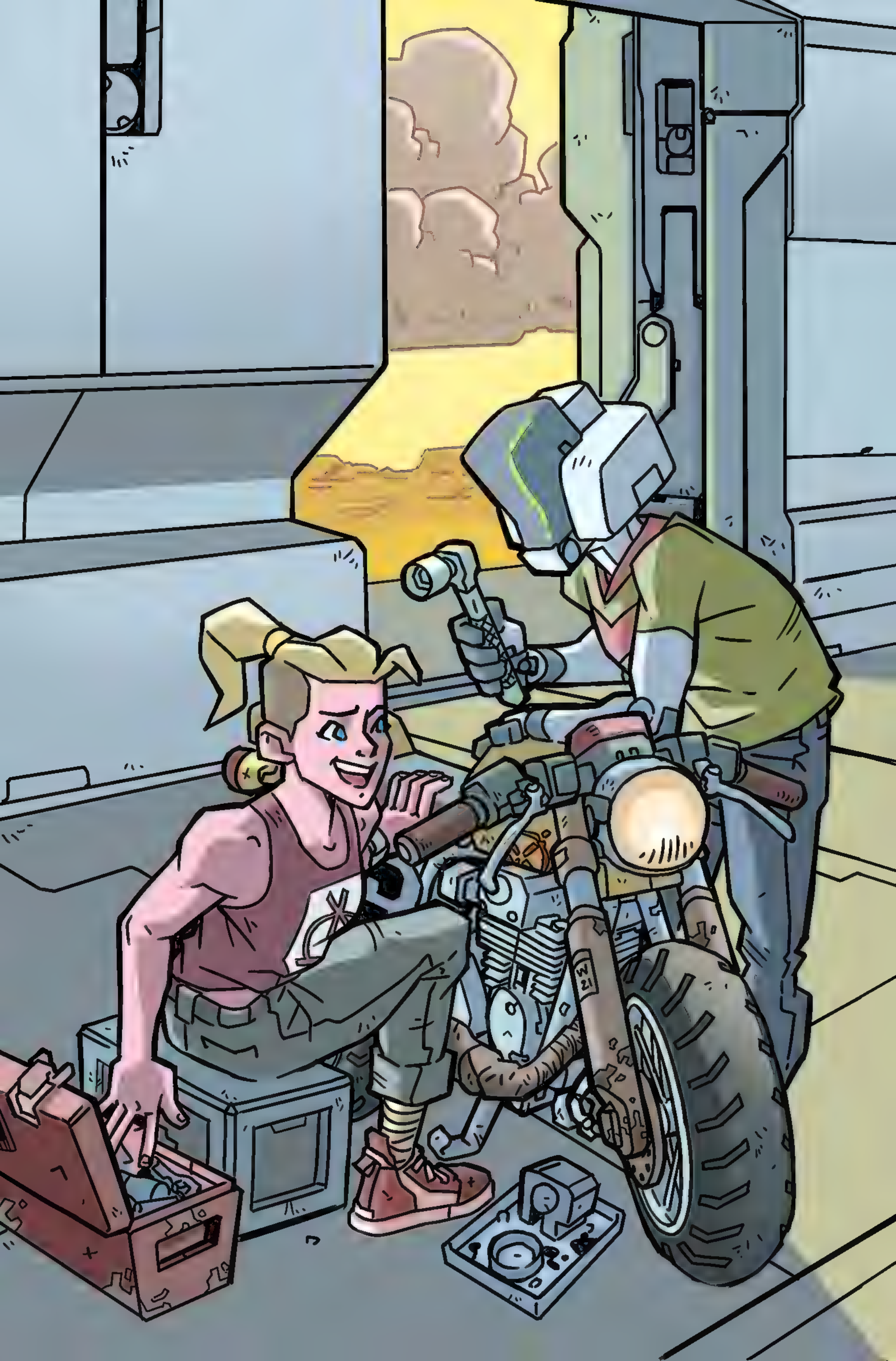
ZOMBIE

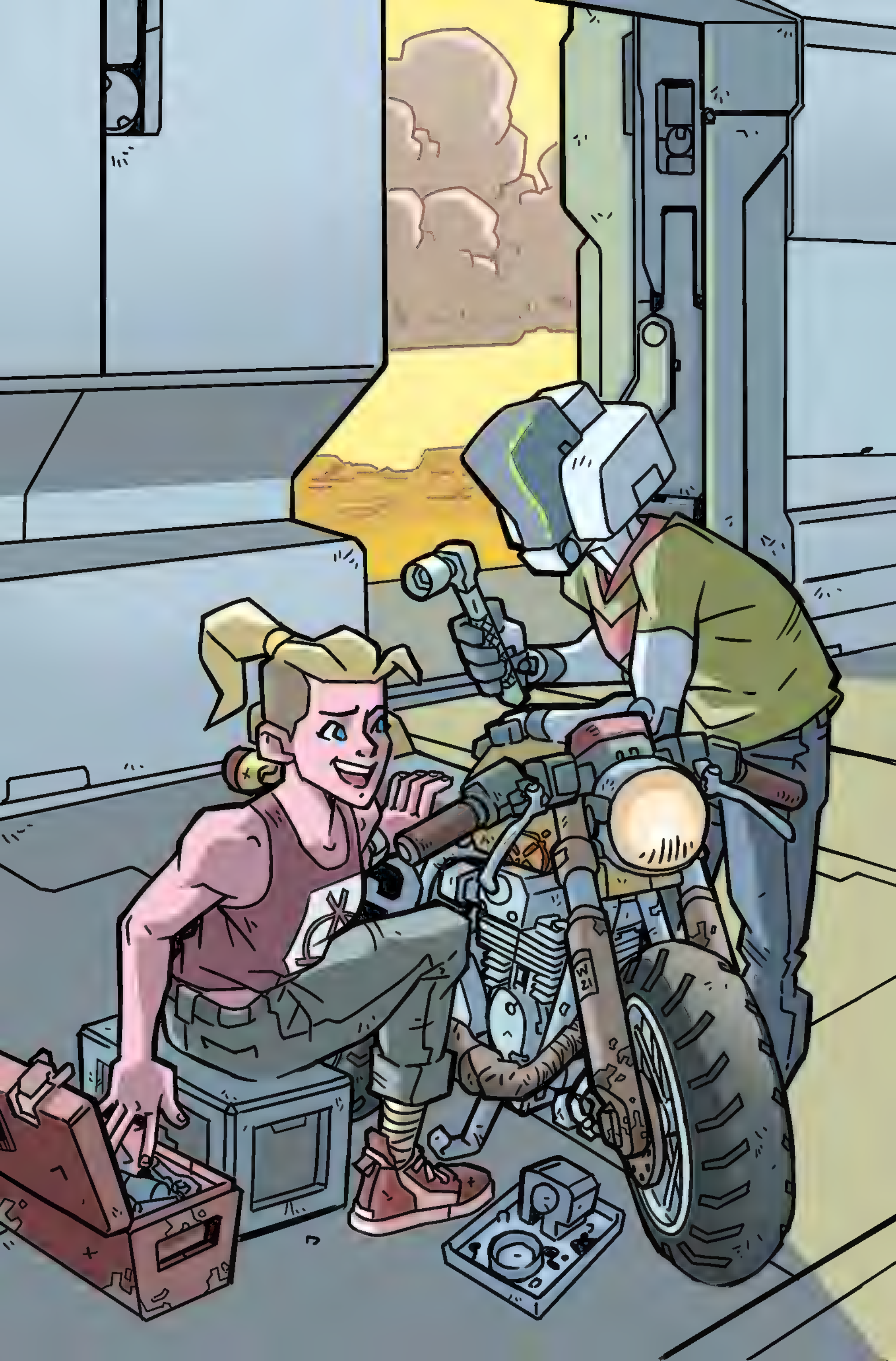

ZZZWWW
~PFCHHH

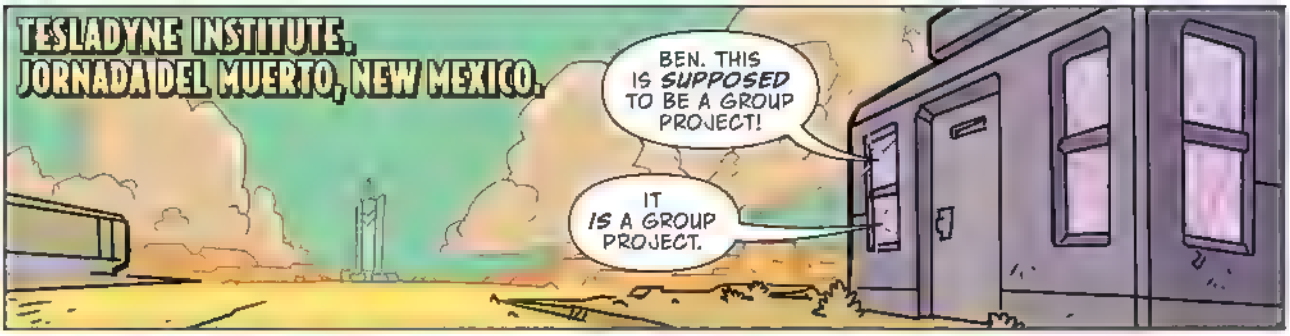

TOTAL DECOHERENCE?
IMPOSSIBLE!
UNLESS...

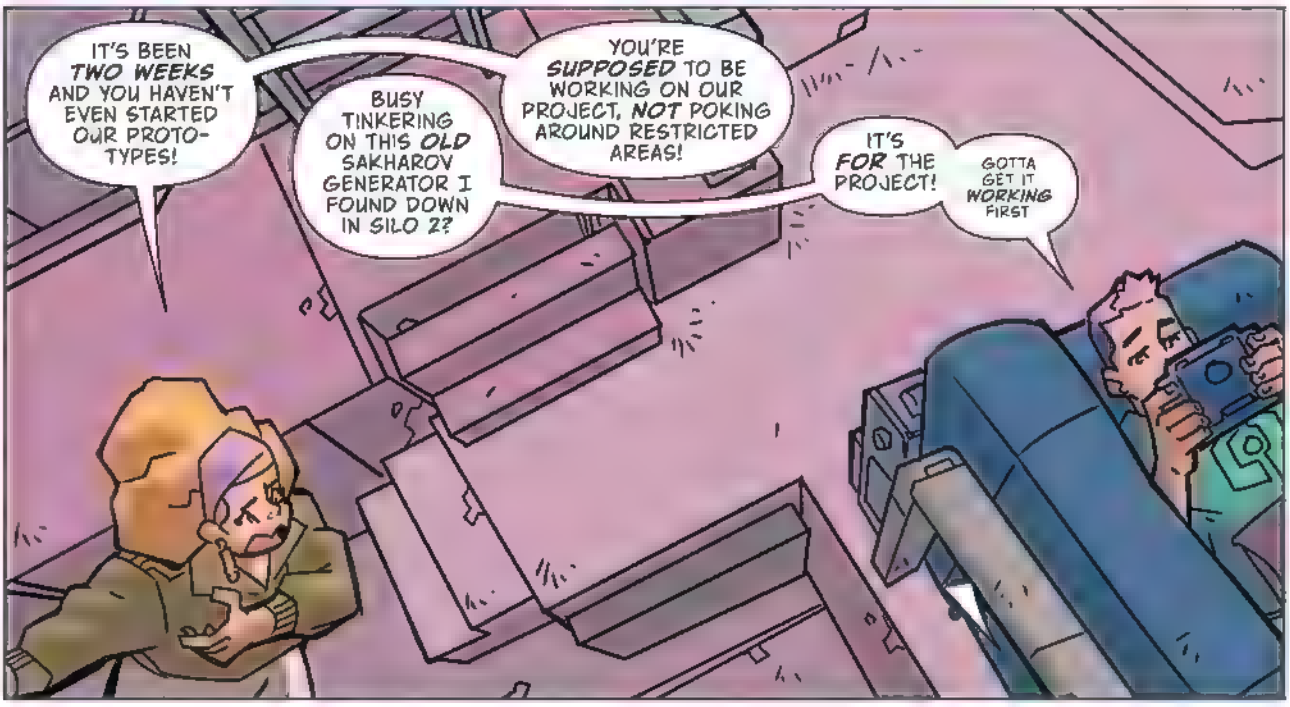
THEY'VE ALTERED THE ODIC FLOW OF THE EARTH ITSELF.
THE SHEER MAGNITUDE OF SUCH AN ENDEAVOR.
NO MATTER. WHAT IS DONE CAN BE UNDONE.


BLOOD.
OUR GREAT MACHINE NEEDS MORE BLOOD!
TO BE CONTINUED...

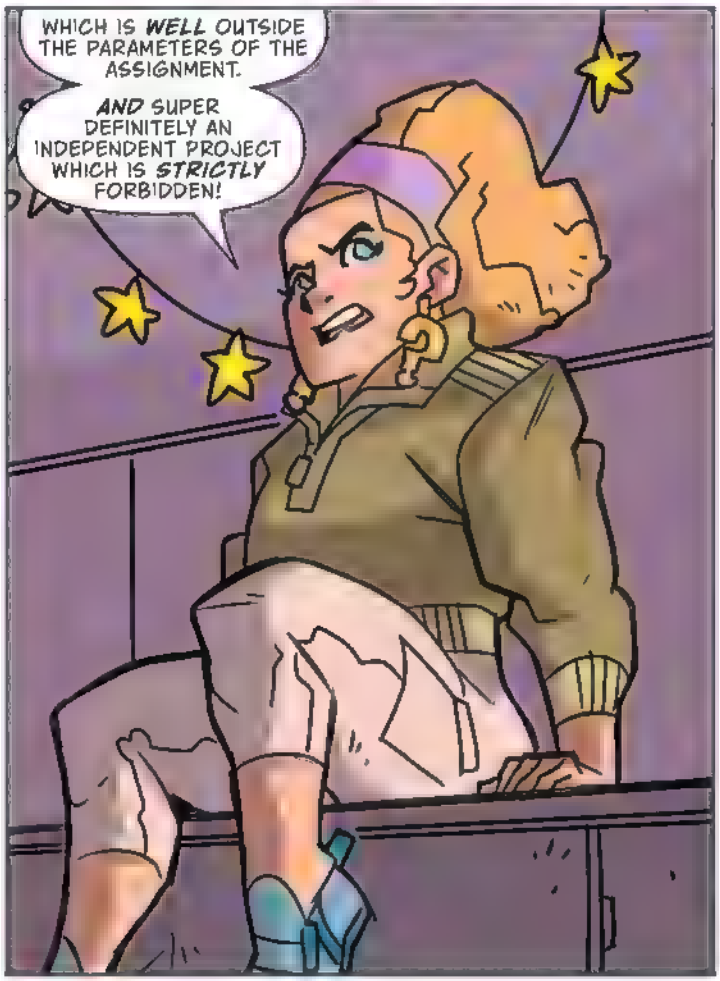


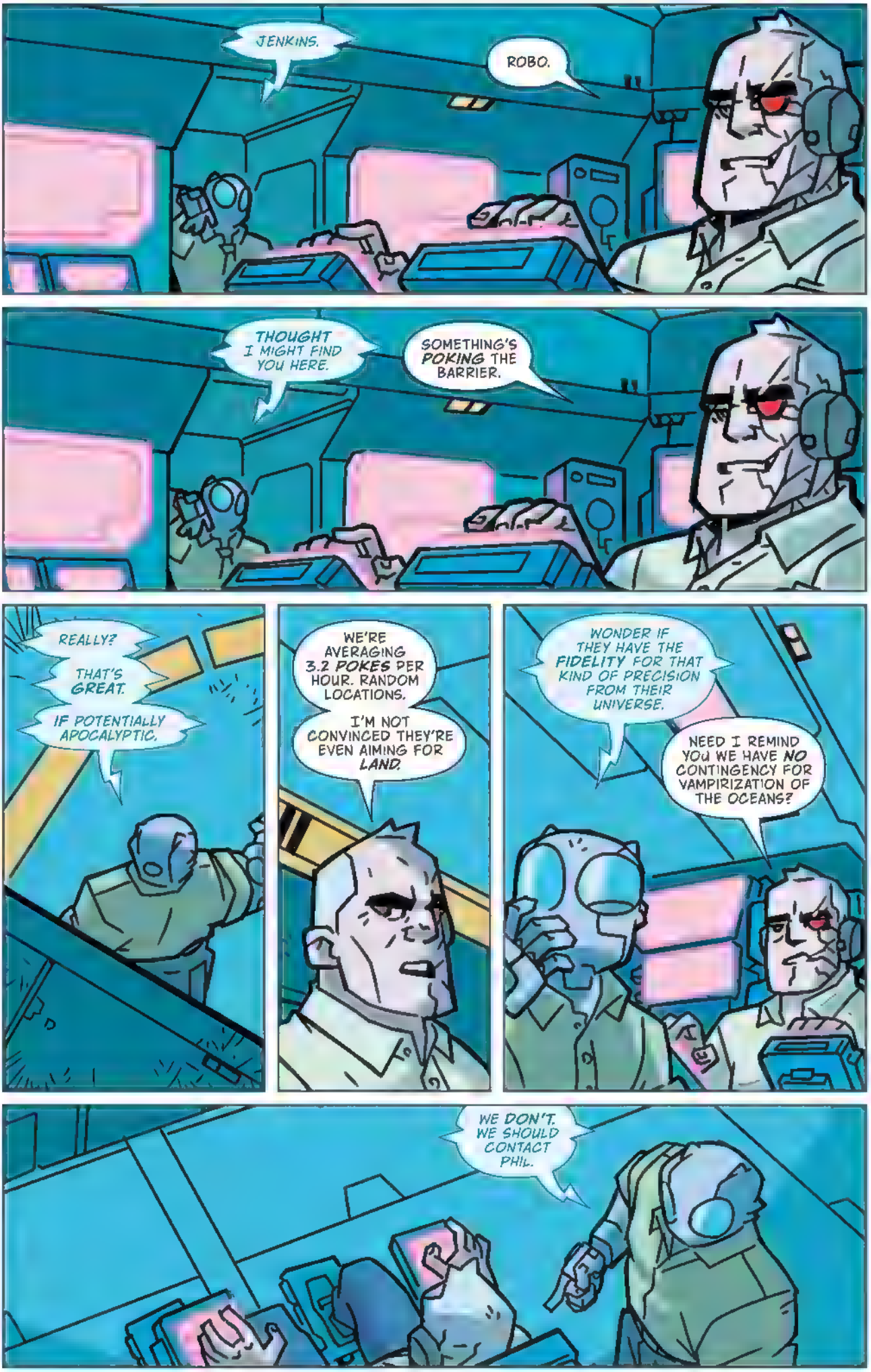



TESLADYNE INSTITUTE,
JORNADA DEL MUERTO, NEW MEXICO.
BEN. THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A GROUP PROJECT!
IT IS A GROUP PROJECT.

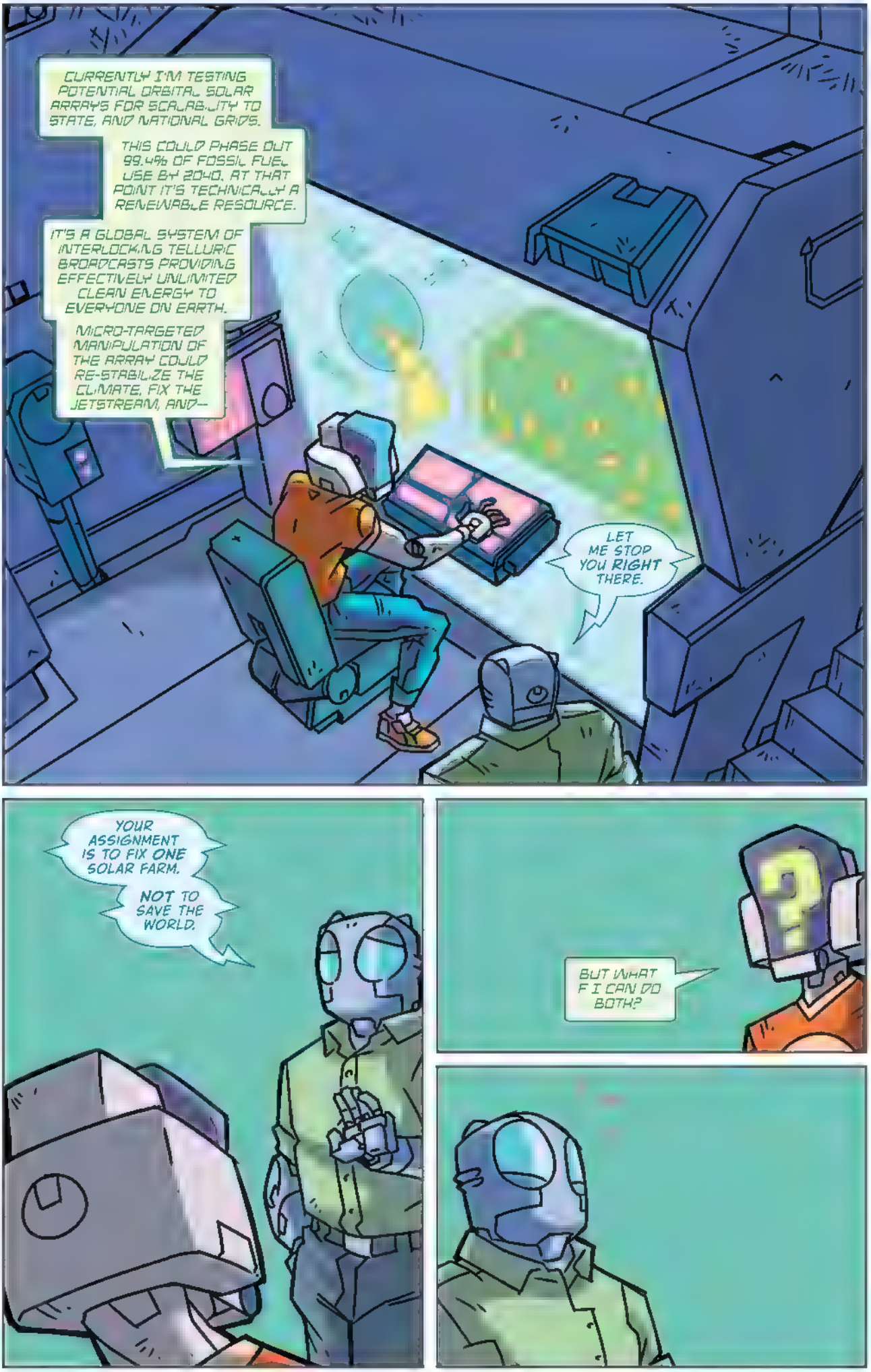

IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS AND YOU HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED OUR PROTO-TYPES!
BUSY TINKERING ON THIS OLD SAKHAROV GENERATOR I FOUND DOWN IN SILO 2?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING ON OUR PROJECT, NOT POKING AROUND RESTRICTED AREAS!
IT'S FOR THE PROJECT!
GOTTA GET IT WORKING FIRST

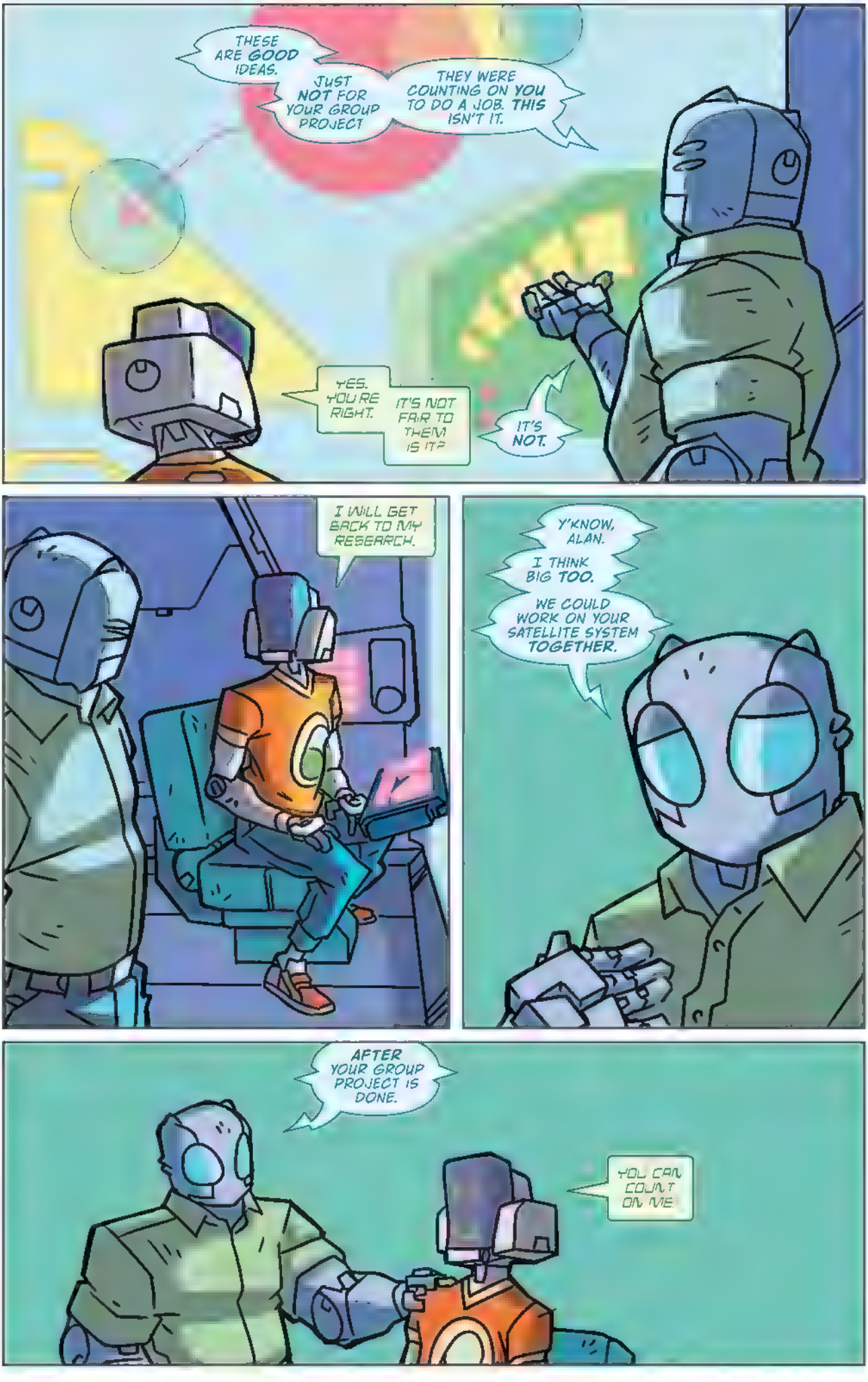
IT'S LIKE, AM I THE ONLY ONE HERE TRYING NOT TO FAIL?!
HAVEN'T SEEN OLIVIA IN DAYS. ALAN'S WORKING ON A PROPOSAL FOR AN ORBITAL SOLAR COLLECTOR SWARM!

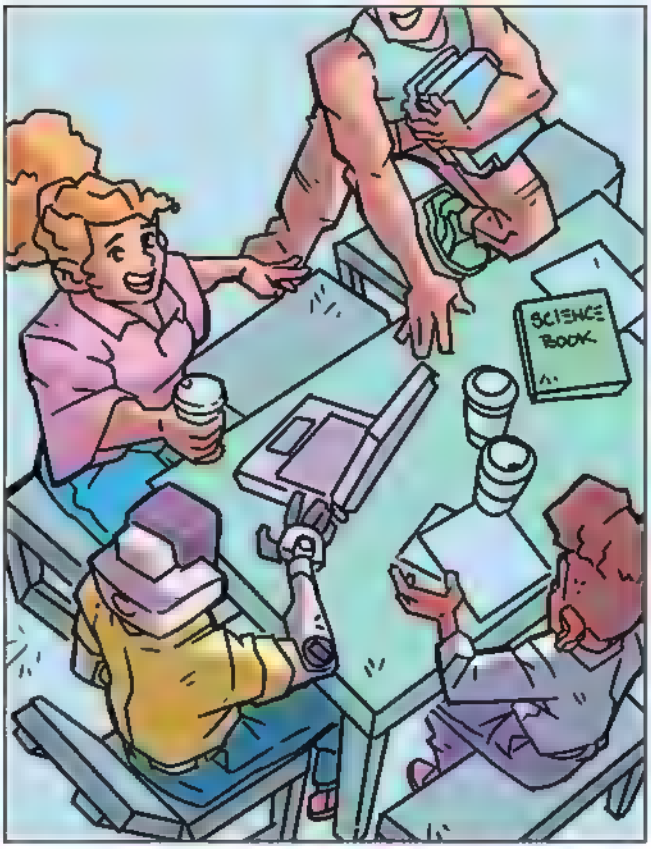

WHICH IS WELL OUTSIDE THE PARAMETERS OF THE ASSIGNMENT.
AND SUPER DEFINITELY AN INDEPENDENT PROJECT WHICH IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN!

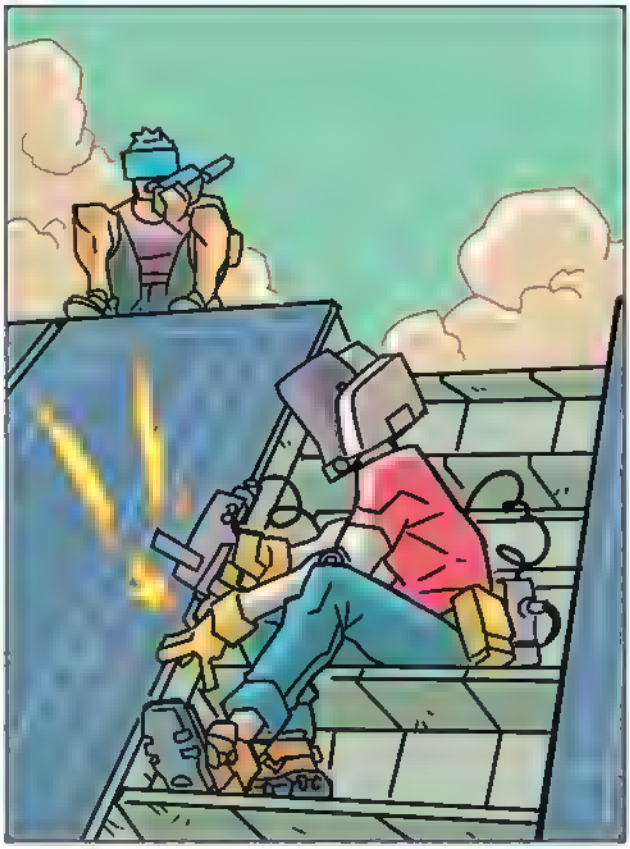

JENKINS.
ROBO.
THOUGHT I MIGHT FIND YOU HERE.
SOMETHING'S POKING THE BARRIER.
REALLY?
THAT'S GREAT.
IF POTENTIALLY APOCALYPTIC.
WE'RE AVERAGING 3.2 POKES PER HOUR. RANDOM LOCATIONS.
I'M NOT CONVINCED THEY'RE EVEN AIMING FOR LAND.
WONDER IF THEY HAVE THE FIDELITY FOR THAT KIND OF PRECISION FROM THEIR UNIVERSE.
NEED I REMIND YOU WE HAVE NO CONTINGENCY FOR VAMPIRIZATION OF THE OCEANS?
WE DON'T. WE SHOULD CONTACT PHIL.

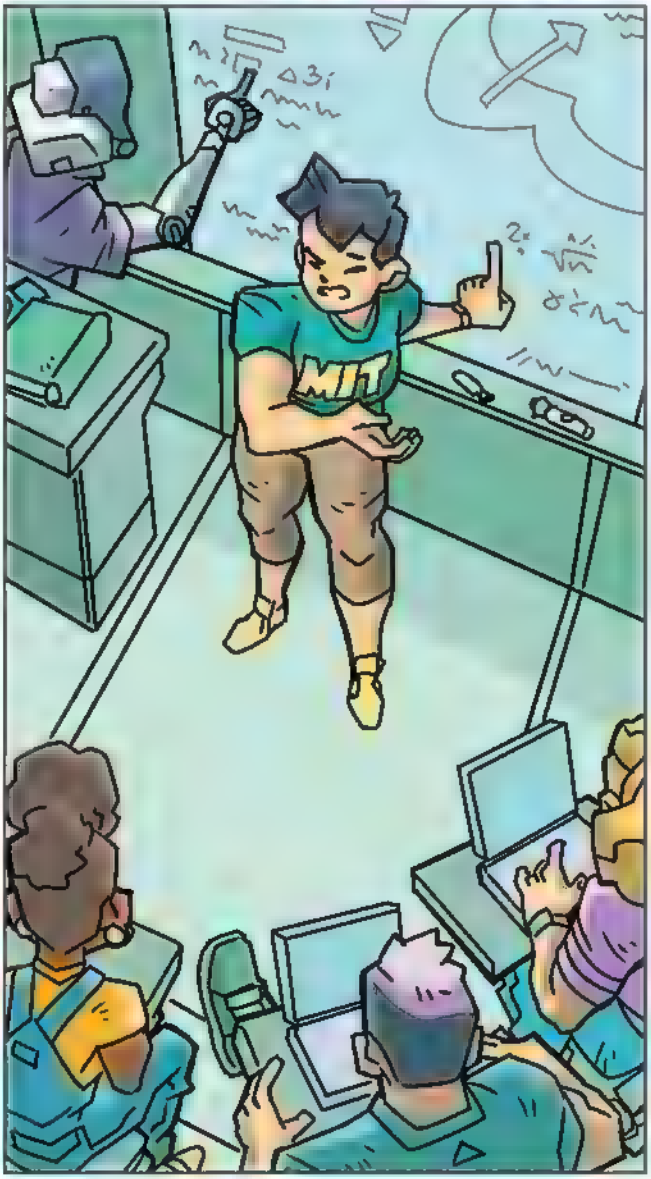
BAIKAL NEUROSPACE RESEARCH COMPLEX.
THESE POKES AREN'T ATTACKS, THEY'RE TESTS.
WE TURNED EARTH'S ORBIT AROUND THE SUN INTO A WELL OF KINETIC ENERGY WE CAN TAP INTO ODICALLY TO REPEL INTERDIMENSIONAL EVENTS.
IN THEORY WE COULD EVENTUALLY BORROW ENOUGH ENERGY TO DEGRADE OUR ORBIT, BUT WE'VE GOT BETWEEN ONE AND TWO MILLION YEARS TO PATCH THAT UP.
I PROPOSE BOOSTING MATERIAL FROM THE ASTEROID BELT. MIGHT TAKE A CENTURY TO SET IT UP, BUT--
PHIL.
THE POKES?
RIGHT. SO.
THE VAMPIRES KNOW THEY SHOULD BE GETTING THROUGH. I THINK THEY'RE LOOKING FOR A WEAK SPOT.
THIS MIGHT GIVE US A VECTOR OF ATTACK BY TRACING THEIR POKES BACK TO THEM.
CERES IS ALREADY WORKING ON BEST PRACTICES FOR MONITORING THE SITUATION AND SHARING DATA.
KEEP US POSTED, PHIL.
YOU GOT THIS?
YES, TO THE MAXIMUM DEGREE OF HUMAN STRENGTH, SPEED, DURABILITY, REFLEXES, AND MENTAL PROCESSING.
REALLY NEED TO START DOING PSYCH EVALS AGAIN


CURRENTLY I'M TESTING POTENTIAL ORBITAL SOLAR ARRAYS FOR SCALABILITY TO STATE, AND NATIONAL GRIDS.
THIS COULD PHASE OUT 99.4% OF FOSSIL FUEL USE BY 2040. AT THAT POINT IT'S TECHNICALLY A RENEWABLE RESOURCE.
IT'S A GLOBAL SYSTEM OF INTERLOCKING TELLURIC BROADCASTS PROVIDING EFFECTIVELY UNLIMITED CLEAN ENERGY TO EVERYONE ON EARTH.
MICRO-TARGETED MANIPULATION OF THE ARRAY COULD RE-STABILIZE THE CLIMATE, FIX THE JETSTREAM, AND--
LET ME STOP YOU RIGHT THERE.
YOUR ASSIGNMENT IS TO FIX ONE SOLAR FARM.
NOT TO SAVE THE WORLD.
?
BUT WHAT F I CAN DO BOTH?


THESE ARE GOOD IDEAS.
JUST NOT FOR YOUR GROUP PROJECT
THEY WERE COUNTING ON YOU TO DO A JOB. THIS ISN'T IT.
YES. YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S NOT FAIR TO THEM IS IT?
IT'S NOT.
I WILL GET BACK TO MY RESEARCH.
Y'KNOW, ALAN.
I THINK BIG TOO.
WE COULD WORK ON YOUR SATELLITE SYSTEM TOGETHER.
AFTER YOUR GROUP PROJECT IS DONE.
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.


SCIENCE BOOK

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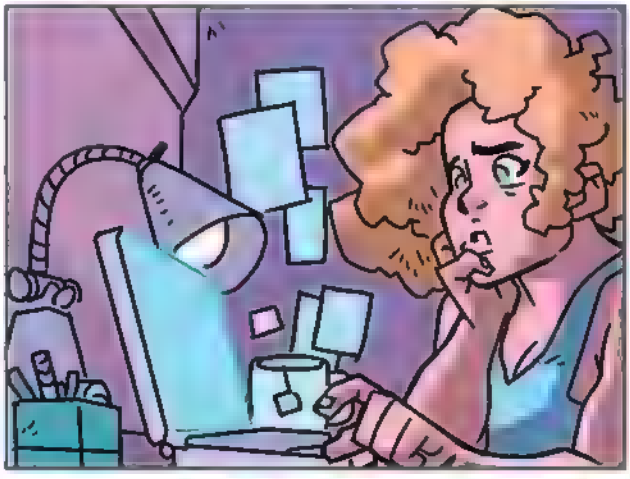
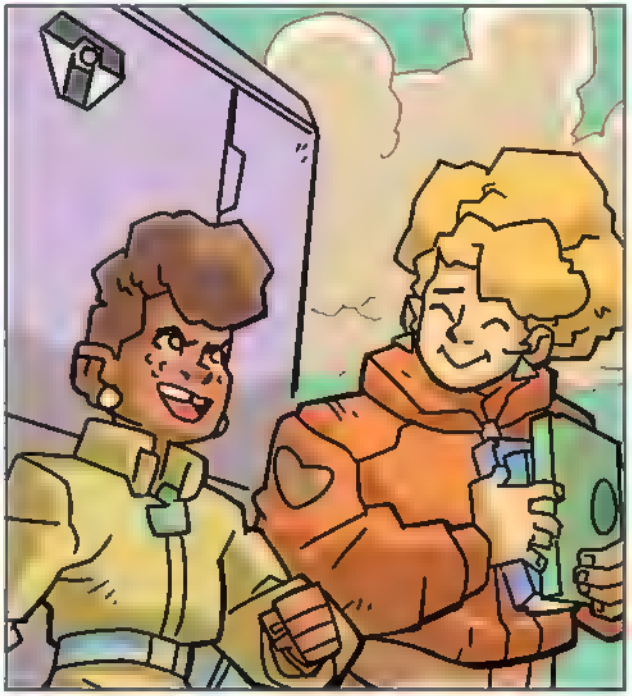
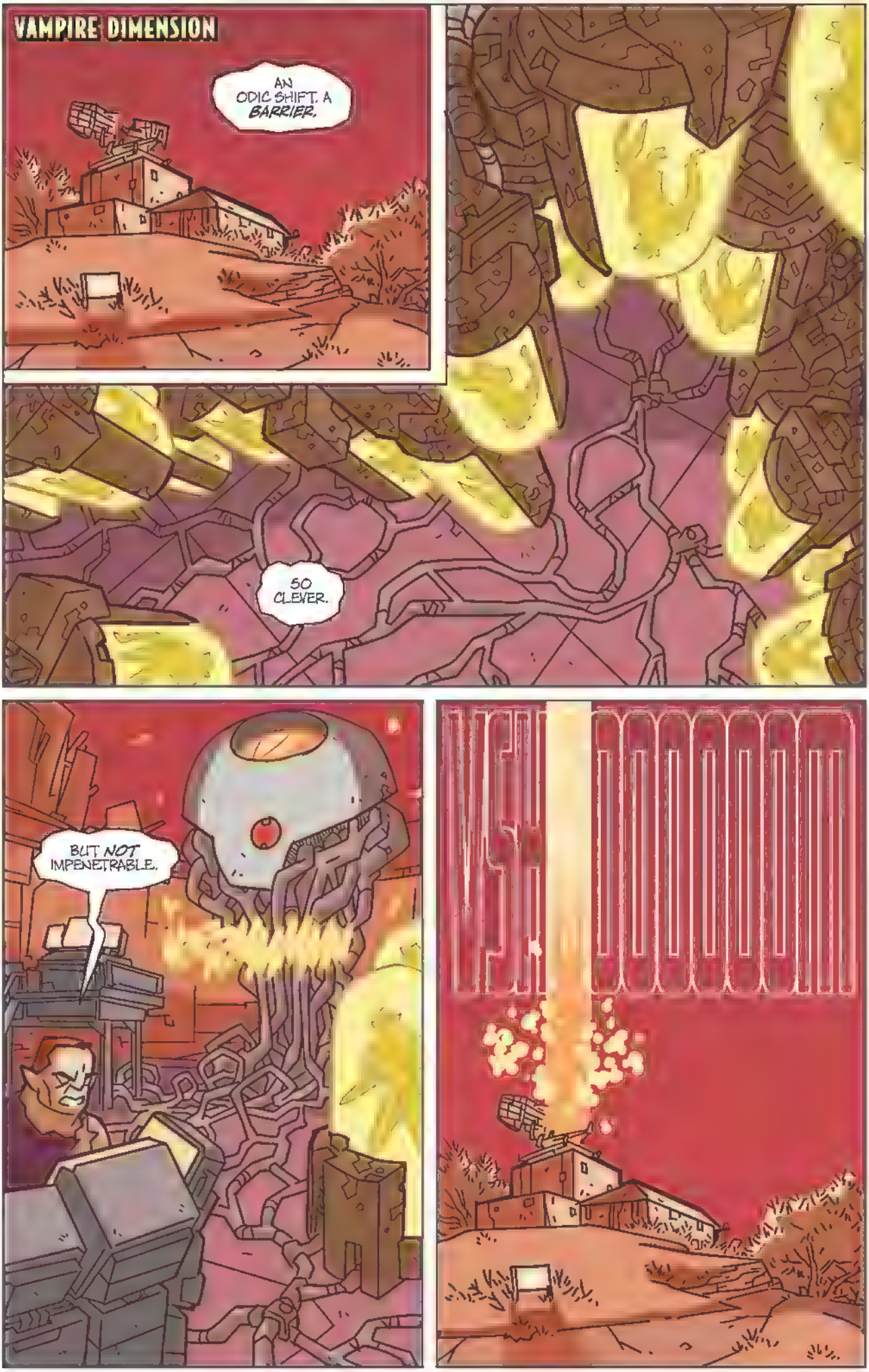
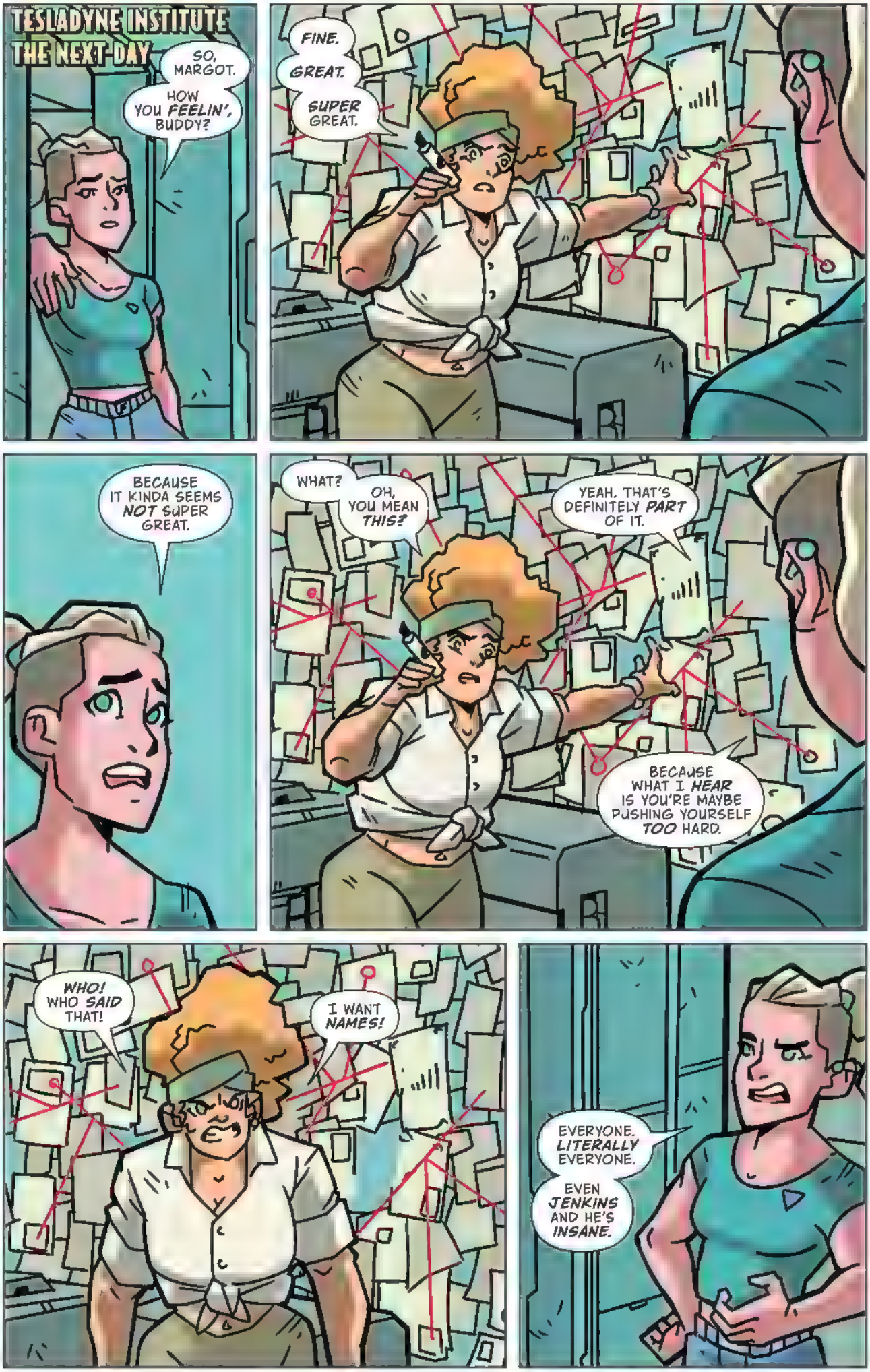


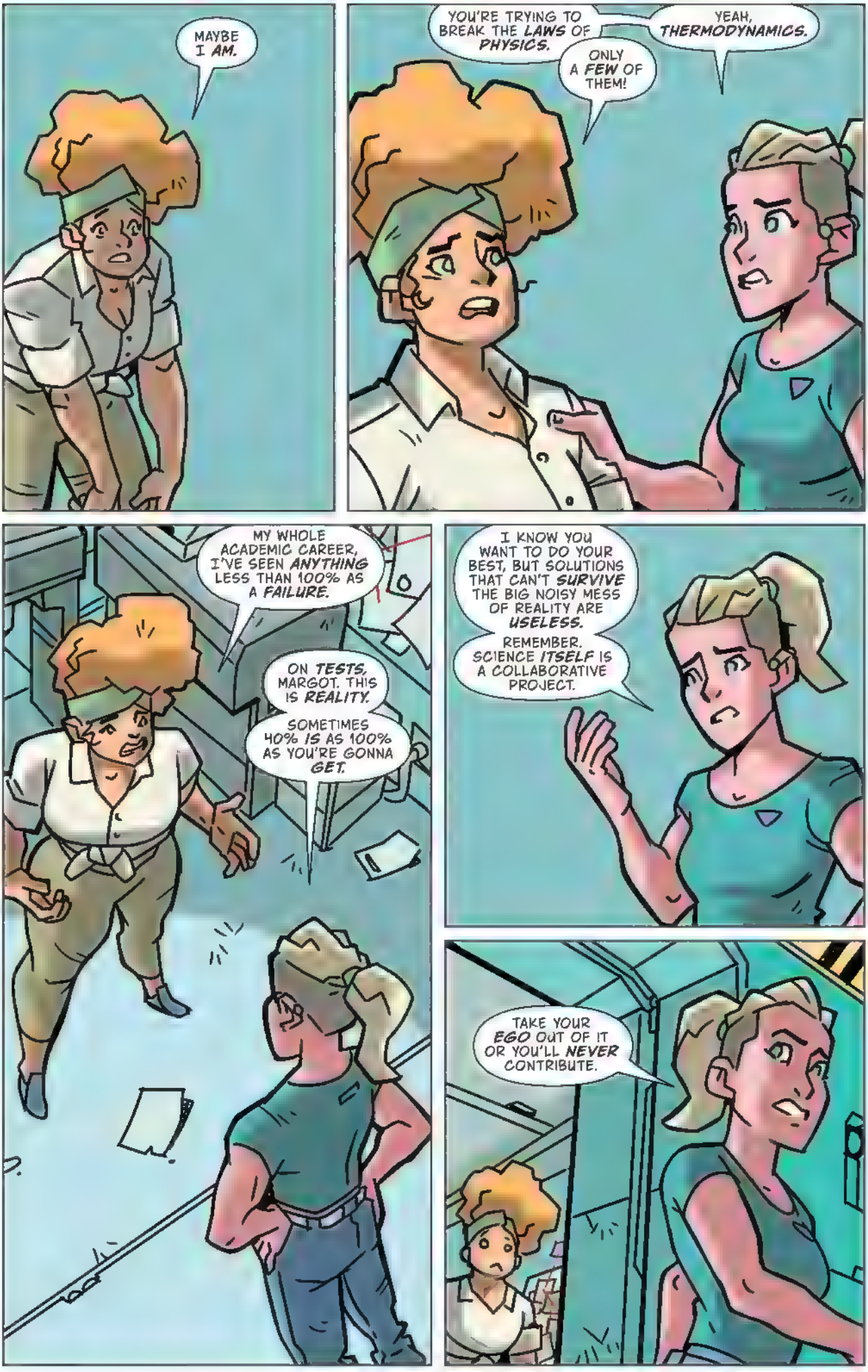


IT'S JUST THAT WE'RE PUSHING FOR 100% EFFICIENCY
AND--I KEEP TELLIN' YOU WE CAN'T DO THAT.
SECOND PLACE IS LAST PLACE, BEN.
OKAY, BUT HE'S RIGHT
ANYTHING LESS THAN 100% IS UNACCEPTABLE.
IT'S ALSO IMPOSSIBLE.
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
WE ALREADY DID. IT'S CALLED PHYSICS.
HELL, THE WORLD RECORD IS 46%. IF YOU GET TO 40%, YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH.
THINK OF THAT AS YOUR NEW 100%, OKAY?
ONE HUNDRED PERCENT IS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT

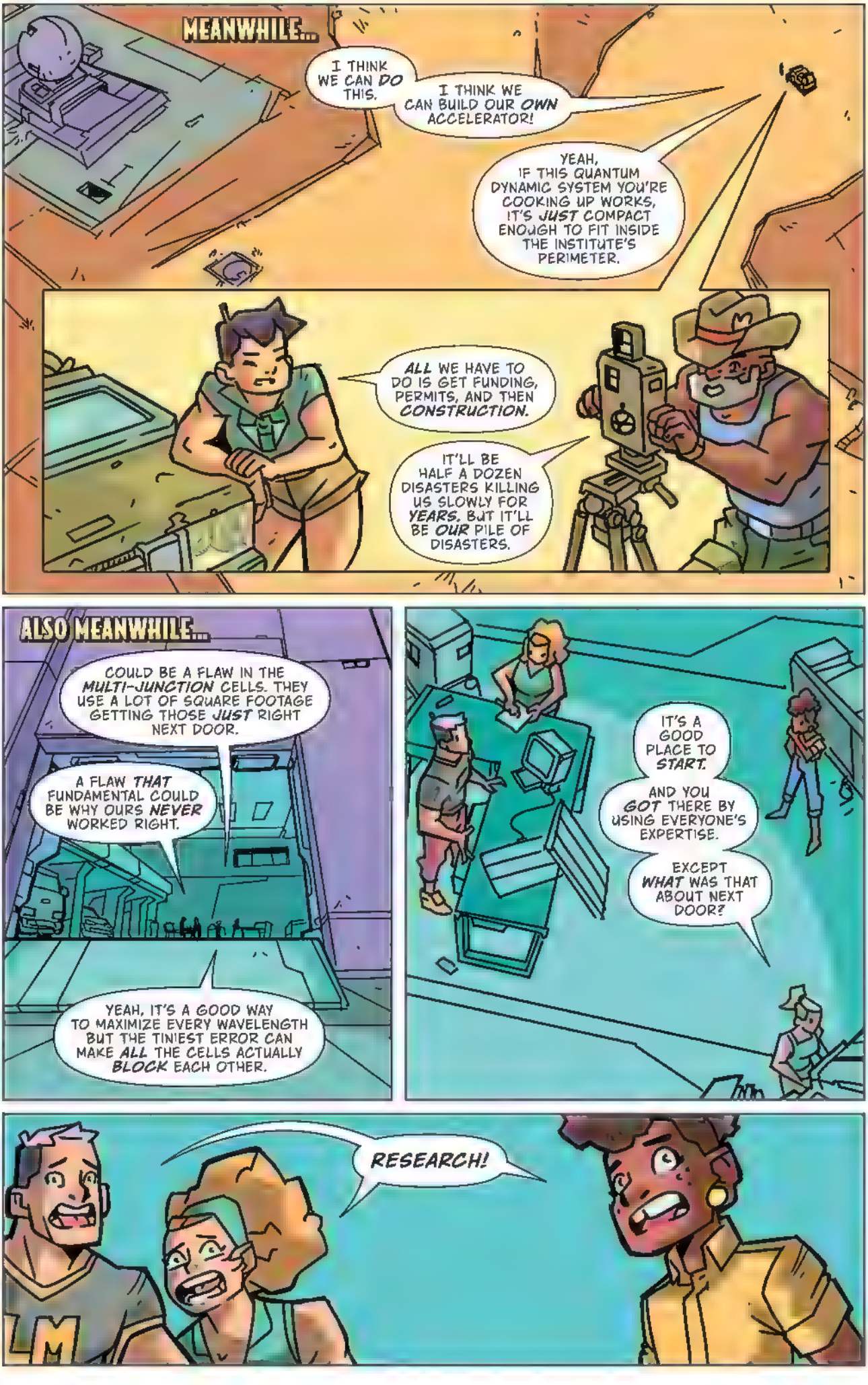

VAMPIRE DIMENSION
AN ODIC SHIFT. A BARRIER.
SO CLEVER.
BUT NOT IMPENETRABLE.
WHOOOOOOM

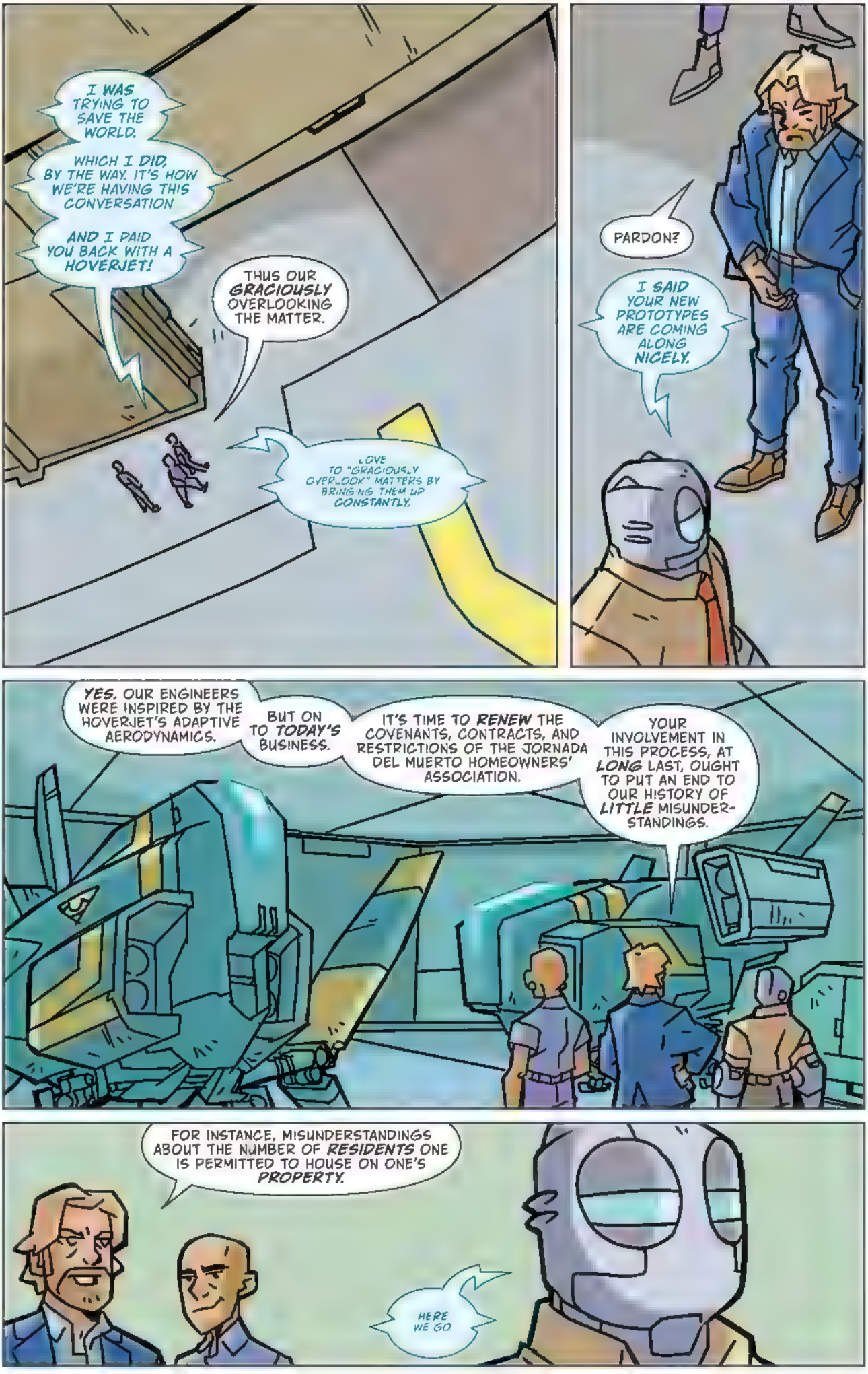
BAIKAL NEUROSPACE RESEARCH COMPLEX
WAIT. THAT'S NOT A POKE.
bzt bzt bzt
ARE YOU GETTING THIS, PHIL?
I AM. THEY CHANGED THEIR ODIC SIGNATURE.
AND SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS. BUT WHY?
COULD BE SEARCHING FOR SOMETHING.
BUT WHAT?
THEY MAY HAVE REALIZED ANY POINT THAT COMES UNDER STRESS BORROWS ENERGY FROM OTHER POINTS TO REPEL THAT STRESS.
COULD BE TESTING THE BARRIER'S REACTION TO SIMULTANEOUS ATTACKS.
LET 'EM TRY. IT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HITTING A TANK WITH ONE FLYSWATTER AND A HUNDRED.
IF THERE'S A MEASURABLE EFFECT, IT'LL BE NEGLIGIBLE.

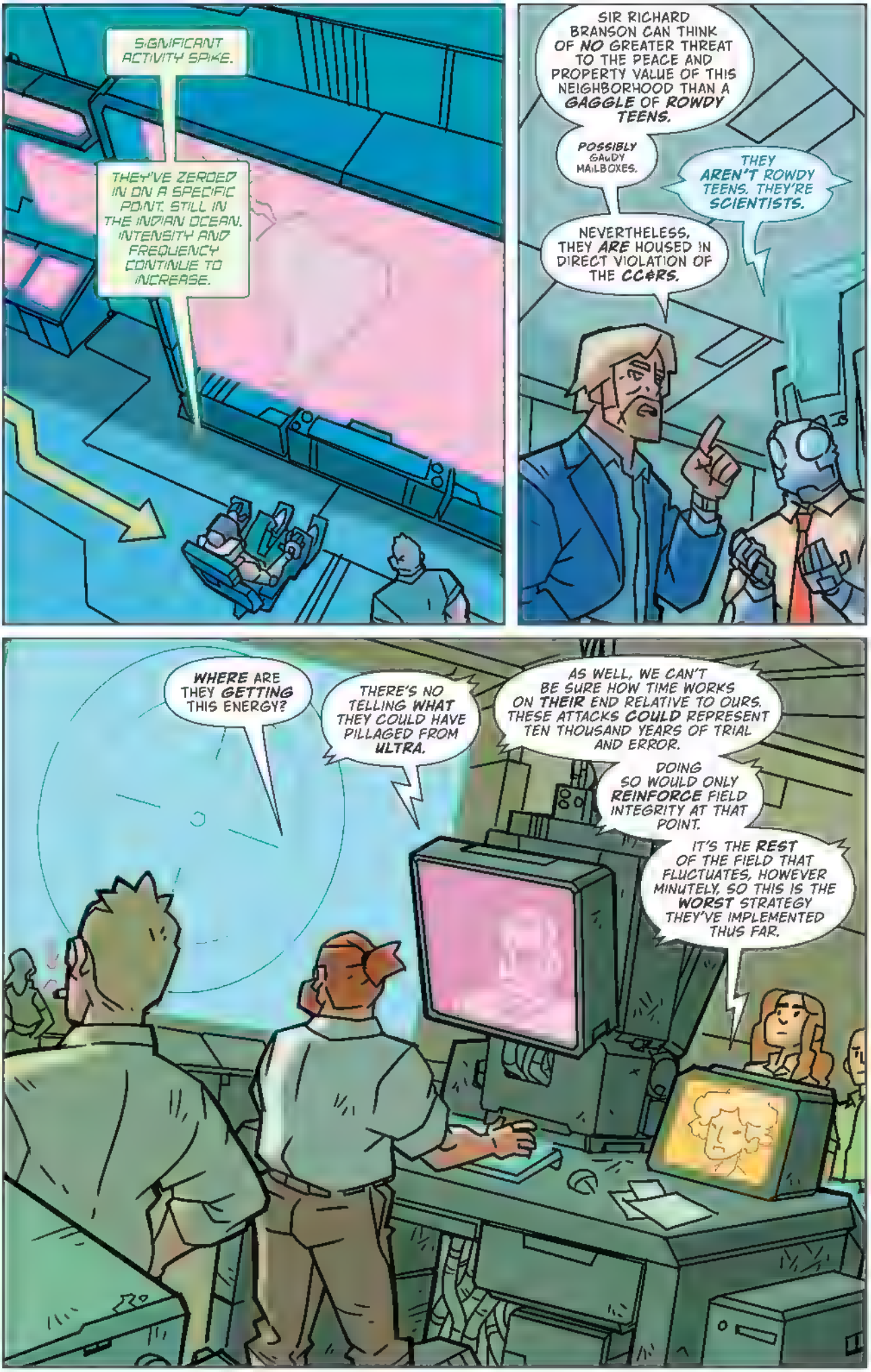

TESLADYNE INSTITUTE
THE NEXT DAY
SO, MARGOT.
HOW YOU *FEELIN'*, BUDDY?
FINE.
GREAT.
SUPER GREAT.
BECAUSE IT KINDA SEEMS *NOT* SUPER GREAT.
WHAT?
OH, YOU MEAN *THIS?*
YEAH. THAT'S DEFINITELY *PART* OF IT.
BECAUSE WHAT I *HEAR* IS YOU'RE MAYBE PUSHING YOURSELF *TOO* HARD.
WHO! WHO *SAID* THAT!
I WANT *NAMES!*
EVERYONE. *LITERALLY* EVERYONE.
EVEN *JENKINS* AND HE'S *INSANE.*

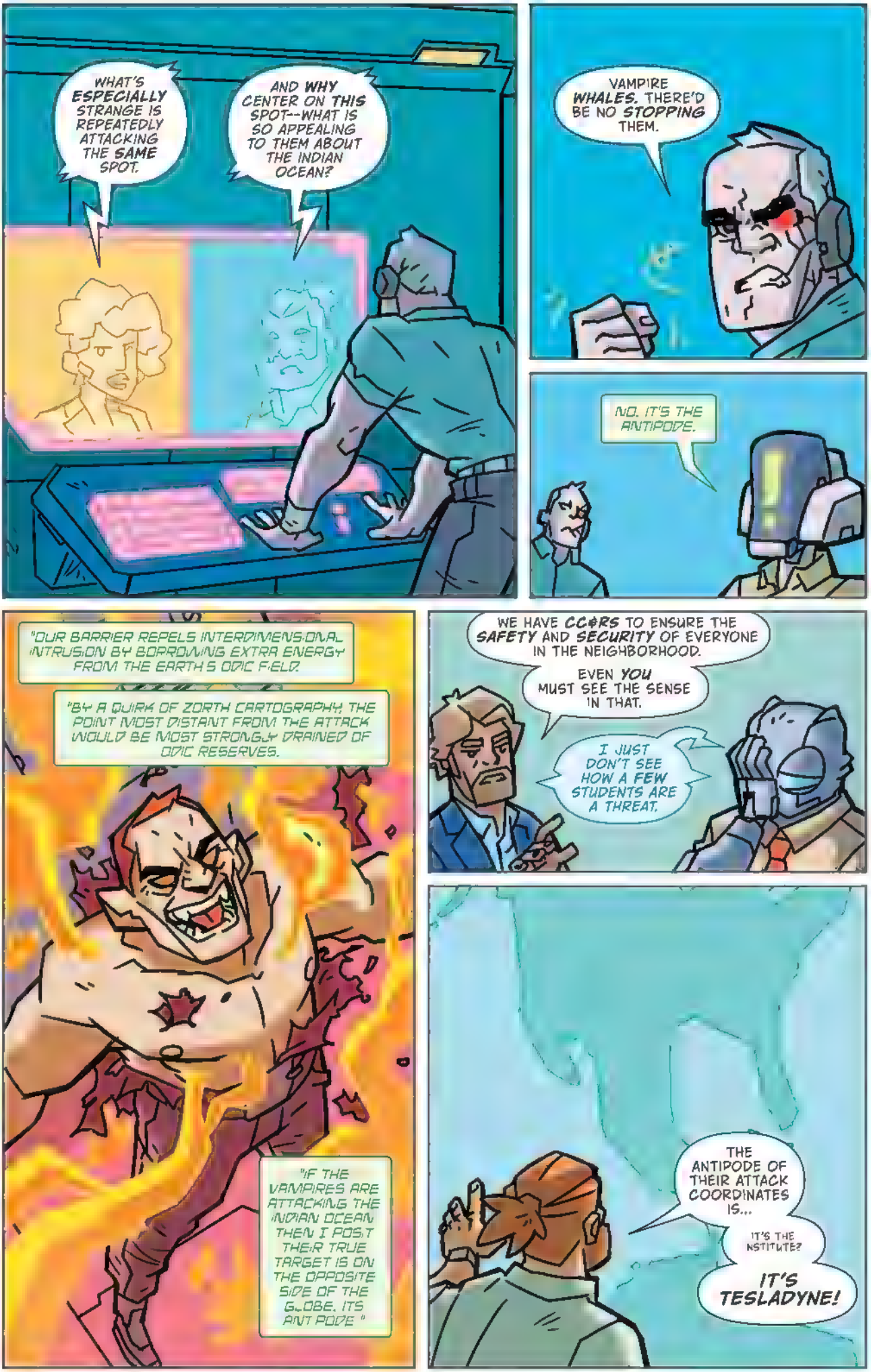

MAYBE I *AM*.
YOU'RE TRYING TO BREAK THE *LAWS* OF *PHYSICS*.
ONLY A *FEW* OF THEM!
YEAH, *THERMODYNAMICS*.
MY WHOLE ACADEMIC CAREER, I'VE SEEN *ANYTHING* LESS THAN 100% AS A *FAILURE*.
ON *TESTS*, MARGOT. THIS IS *REALITY*.
SOMETIMES 40% *IS* AS 100% AS YOU'RE GONNA *GET*.
I KNOW YOU WANT TO DO YOUR BEST, BUT SOLUTIONS THAT CAN'T *SURVIVE* THE BIG NOISY MESS OF REALITY ARE *USELESS*.
REMEMBER. SCIENCE *ITSELF* IS A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT.
TAKE YOUR *EGO* OUT OF IT OR YOU'LL *NEVER* CONTRIBUTE.

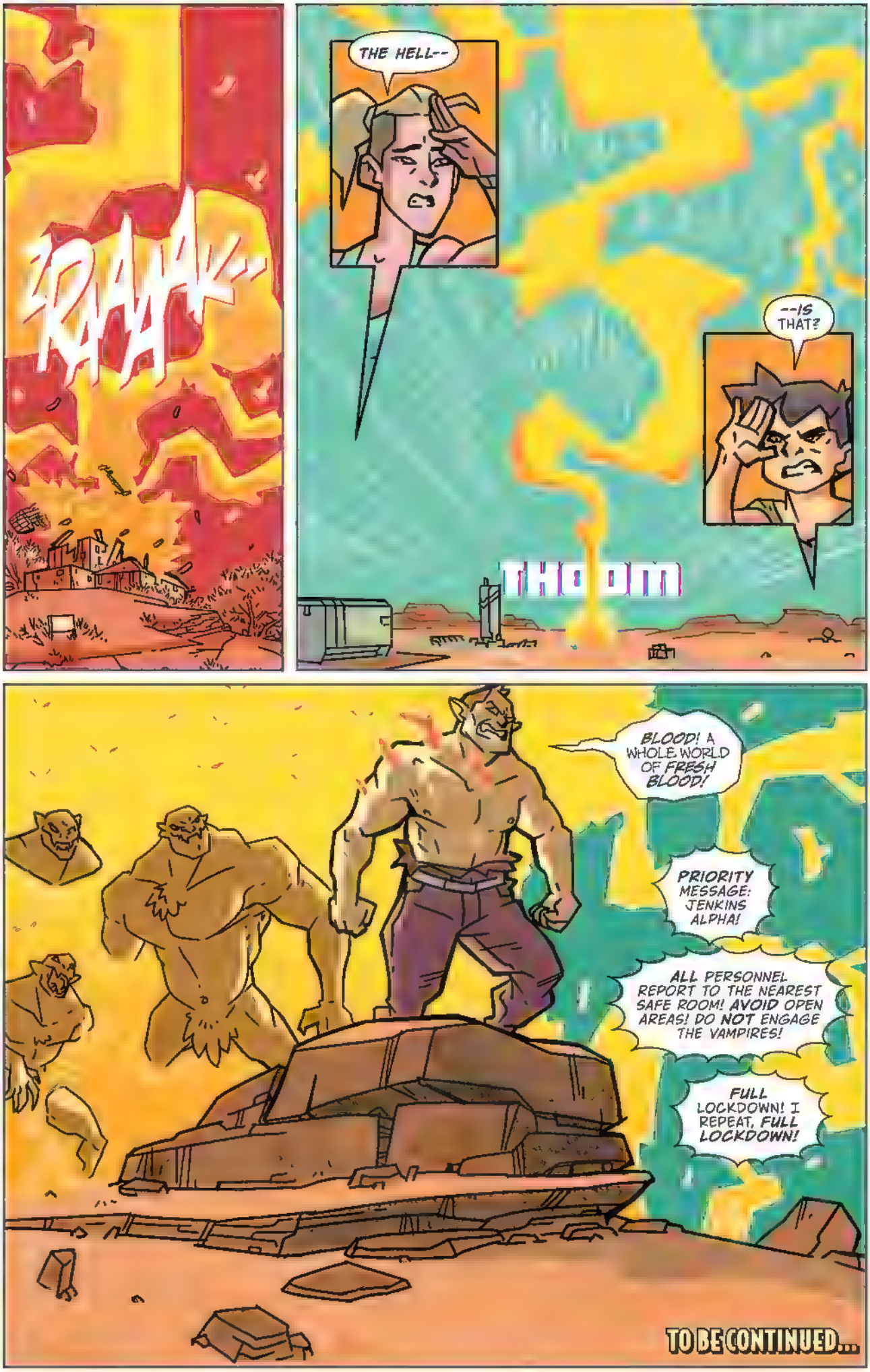
THE NEXT DAY...
THANK YOU FOR SUPERVISING MY MONITOR DUTY, MR. JENKINS.
IT'S JUST JENKINS.
THANK YOU FOR SUPERVISING MY MONITOR DUTY, JUST JENKINS.
THAT'S FUNNY.
THAT MAKES YOU THE SQUAD FUNNY MAN.
SO YOU NEED A CODE NAME.
BLOOD CENTIPEDE. SKULL RAVEN. DEATH JACKAL.
MY OLD OUTFIT. WE ALL HAD CODE NAMES.
YOU'RE LAUGHING SCORPION
YOU'RE FUNNY, BUT IT HIDES YOUR TRUE THREAT.
ISN'T THAT SINISTER?
WE DIDN'T DO NOT SINISTER.
WHAT WAS YOUR CODE NAME?
AFRAID THAT'S CLASSIFIED, SCORPION
BACK TO WORK.

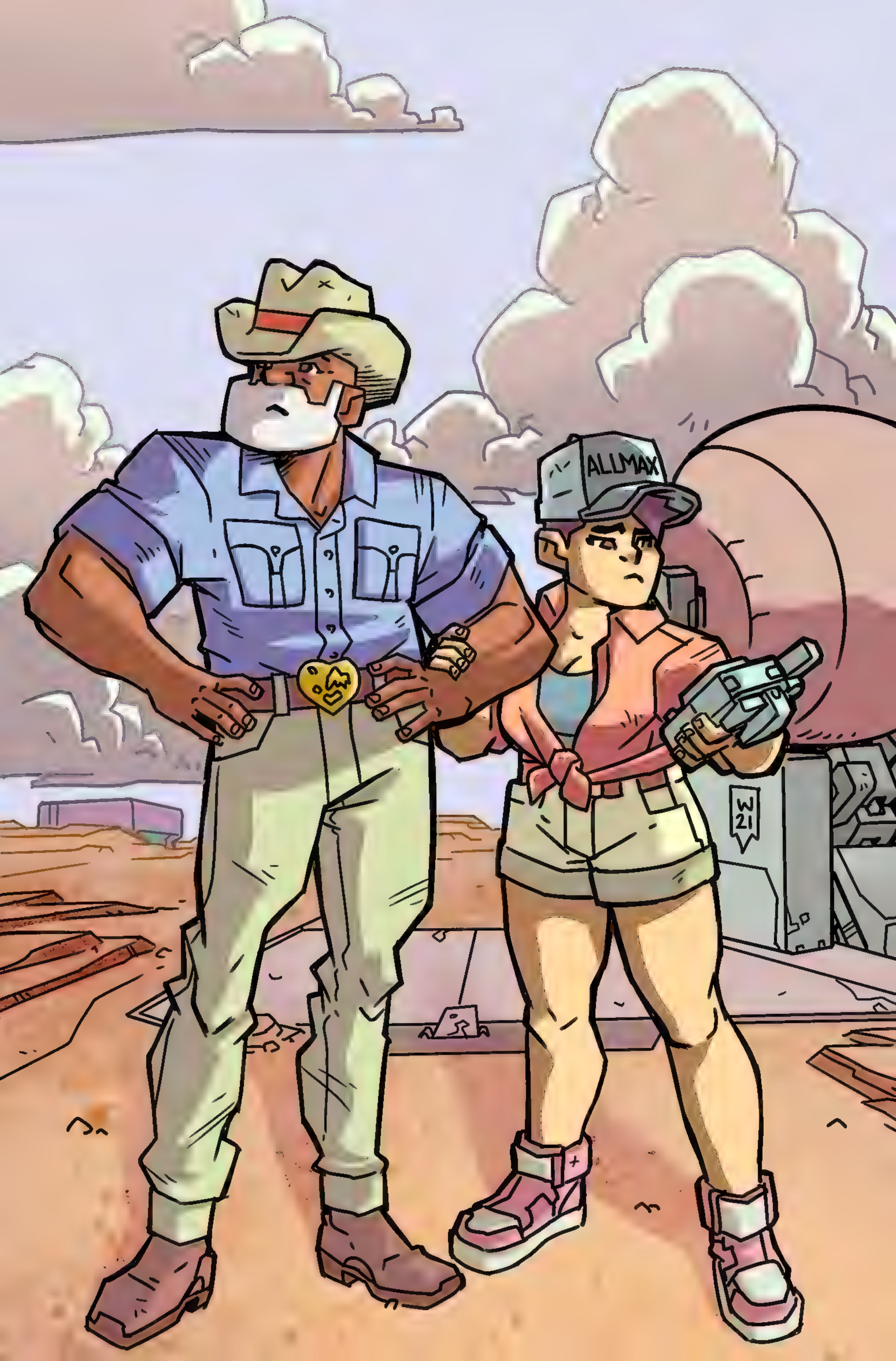

MEANWHILE...
I THINK WE CAN DO THIS.
I THINK WE CAN BUILD OUR OWN ACCELERATOR!
YEAH, IF THIS QUANTUM DYNAMIC SYSTEM YOU'RE COOKING UP WORKS, IT'S JUST COMPACT ENOUGH TO FIT INSIDE THE INSTITUTE'S PERIMETER.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET FUNDING, PERMITS, AND THEN CONSTRUCTION.
IT'LL BE HALF A DOZEN DISASTERS KILLING US SLOWLY FOR YEARS. BUT IT'LL BE OUR PILE OF DISASTERS.
ALSO MEANWHILE...
COULD BE A FLAW IN THE MULTI-JUNCTION CELLS. THEY USE A LOT OF SQUARE FOOTAGE GETTING THOSE JUST RIGHT NEXT DOOR.
A FLAW THAT FUNDAMENTAL COULD BE WHY OURS NEVER WORKED RIGHT.
YEAH, IT'S A GOOD WAY TO MAXIMIZE EVERY WAVELENGTH BUT THE TINIEST ERROR CAN MAKE ALL THE CELLS ACTUALLY BLOCK EACH OTHER.
IT'S A GOOD PLACE TO START.
AND YOU GOT THERE BY USING EVERYONE'S EXPERTISE.
EXCEPT WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT NEXT DOOR?
RESEARCH!


I WAS TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD.
WHICH I DID, BY THE WAY. IT'S HOW WE'RE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION
AND I PAID YOU BACK WITH A HOVERJET!
THUS OUR GRACIOUSLY OVERLOOKING THE MATTER.
LOVE TO "GRACIOUSLY OVERLOOK" MATTERS BY BRINGING THEM UP CONSTANTLY.
PARDON?
I SAID YOUR NEW PROTOTYPES ARE COMING ALONG NICELY.
YES. OUR ENGINEERS WERE INSPIRED BY THE HOVERJET'S ADAPTIVE AERODYNAMICS.
BUT ON TO TODAY'S BUSINESS.
IT'S TIME TO RENEW THE COVENANTS, CONTRACTS, AND RESTRICTIONS OF THE JORNADA DEL MUERTO HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION.
YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THIS PROCESS, AT LONG LAST, OUGHT TO PUT AN END TO OUR HISTORY OF LITTLE MISUNDERSTANDINGS.
FOR INSTANCE, MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS ONE IS PERMITTED TO HOUSE ON ONE'S PROPERTY.
HERE WE GO.

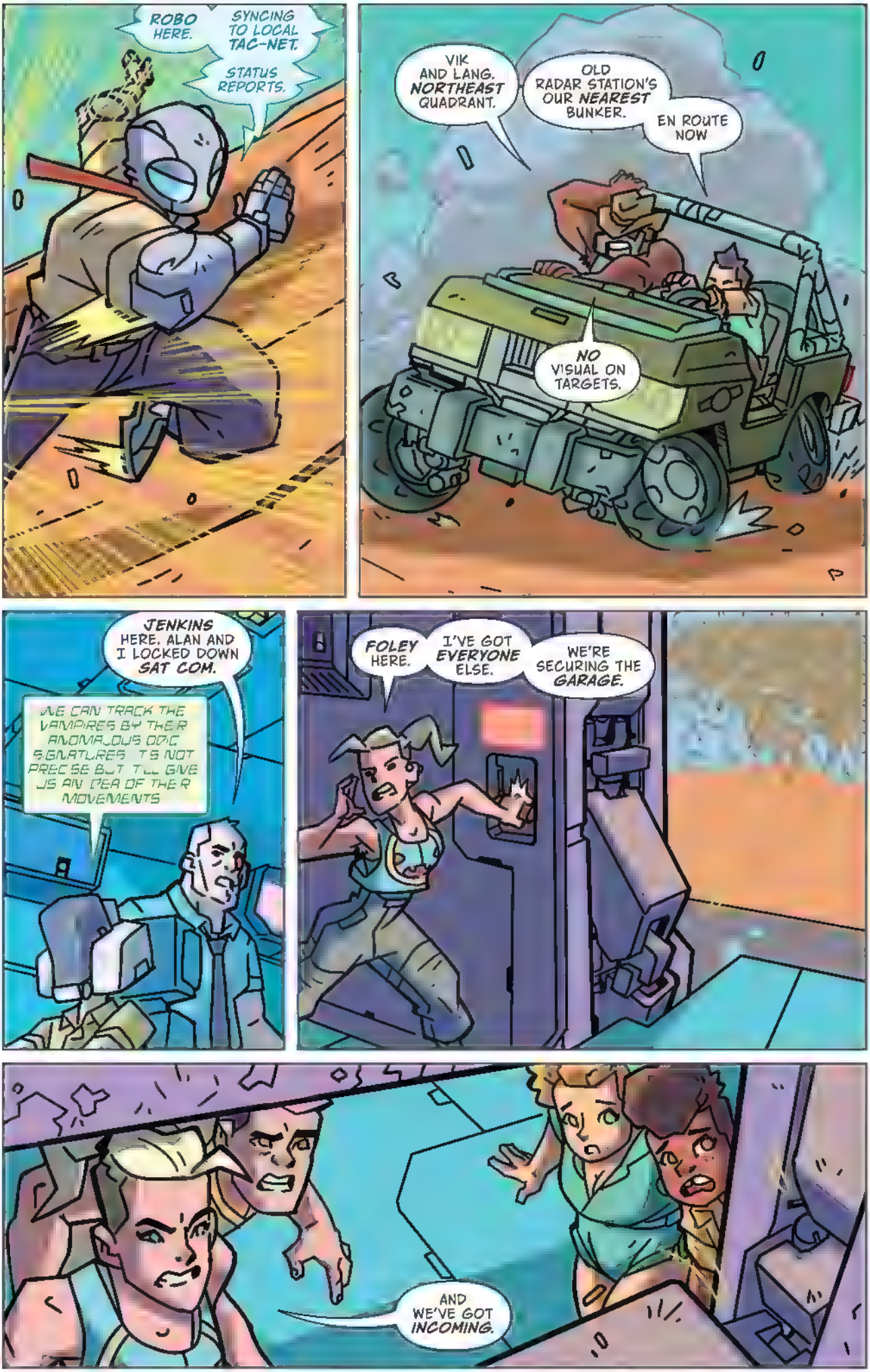

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY SPIKE.
THEY'VE ZEROED IN ON A SPECIFIC POINT. STILL IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. INTENSITY AND FREQUENCY CONTINUE TO INCREASE.
SIR RICHARD BRANSON CAN THINK OF NO GREATER THREAT TO THE PEACE AND PROPERTY VALUE OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD THAN A GAGGLE OF ROWDY TEENS.
POSSIBLY GAUDY MAILBOXES.
THEY AREN'T ROWDY TEENS. THEY'RE SCIENTISTS.
NEVERTHELESS, THEY ARE HOUSED IN DIRECT VIOLATION OF THE CC&RS.
WHERE ARE THEY GETTING THIS ENERGY?
THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY COULD HAVE PILLAGED FROM ULTRA.
AS WELL, WE CAN'T BE SURE HOW TIME WORKS ON THEIR END RELATIVE TO OURS. THESE ATTACKS COULD REPRESENT TEN THOUSAND YEARS OF TRIAL AND ERROR.
DOING SO WOULD ONLY REINFORCE FIELD INTEGRITY AT THAT POINT.
IT'S THE REST OF THE FIELD THAT FLUCTUATES, HOWEVER MINUTELY, SO THIS IS THE WORST STRATEGY THEY'VE IMPLEMENTED THUS FAR.


WHAT'S ESPECIALLY STRANGE IS REPEATEDLY ATTACKING THE SAME SPOT.
AND WHY CENTER ON THIS SPOT--WHAT IS SO APPEALING TO THEM ABOUT THE INDIAN OCEAN?
VAMPIRE WHALES. THERE'D BE NO STOPPING THEM.
NO. IT'S THE ANTIPODE.
"OUR BARRIER REPELS INTERDIMENSIONAL INTRUSION BY BORROWING EXTRA ENERGY FROM THE EARTH'S ODIC FIELD.
"BY A QUIRK OF ZORTH CARTOGRAPHY, THE POINT MOST DISTANT FROM THE ATTACK WOULD BE MOST STRONGLY DRAINED OF ODIC RESERVES.
"IF THE VAMPIRES ARE ATTACKING THE INDIAN OCEAN THEN I POSIT THEIR TRUE TARGET IS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE GLOBE. ITS ANTIPODE."
WE HAVE CC$RS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF EVERYONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
EVEN YOU MUST SEE THE SENSE IN THAT.
I JUST DON'T SEE HOW A FEW STUDENTS ARE A THREAT.
THE ANTIPODE OF THEIR ATTACK COORDINATES IS...
IT'S THE NSTITUTE?
IT'S TESLADYNE!


RAAAK
THE HELL--
--IS THAT?
THOOM
BLOOD! A WHOLE WORLD OF FRESH BLOOD!
PRIORITY MESSAGE: JENKINS ALPHA!
ALL PERSONNEL REPORT TO THE NEAREST SAFE ROOM! AVOID OPEN AREAS! DO NOT ENGAGE THE VAMPIRES!
FULL LOCKDOWN! I REPEAT, FULL LOCKDOWN!
TO BE CONTINUED...


ALLMAX
W21

ZORTH BRIDGE HAS COLLAPSED.
HUNDREDS OF ODIC SIGNATURES CONFIRMED. IT'S VAMPIRES.
PRIORITY IS CONTAINMENT AND ELIMINATION.
ROBO.
IF EVEN ONE OF THESE CREATURE
ROBO!
YES, SORRY.
SO WE'RE ABOUT FINISHED HERE, RIGHT?
WE'VE HARDLY BEGUN!
OH, RIGHT. YES. OF COURSE.
AS WE WERE SAYING, TESLADYNE'S HISTORY OF VIOLATING THE CC&RS IS A MATTER OF SOME CONCERN TO THE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION.
EXCUSE ME,
WHERE'S YOUR NEAREST BATHROOM?
THIRD DOOR ON YOUR LEFT.
WAIT A TICK...

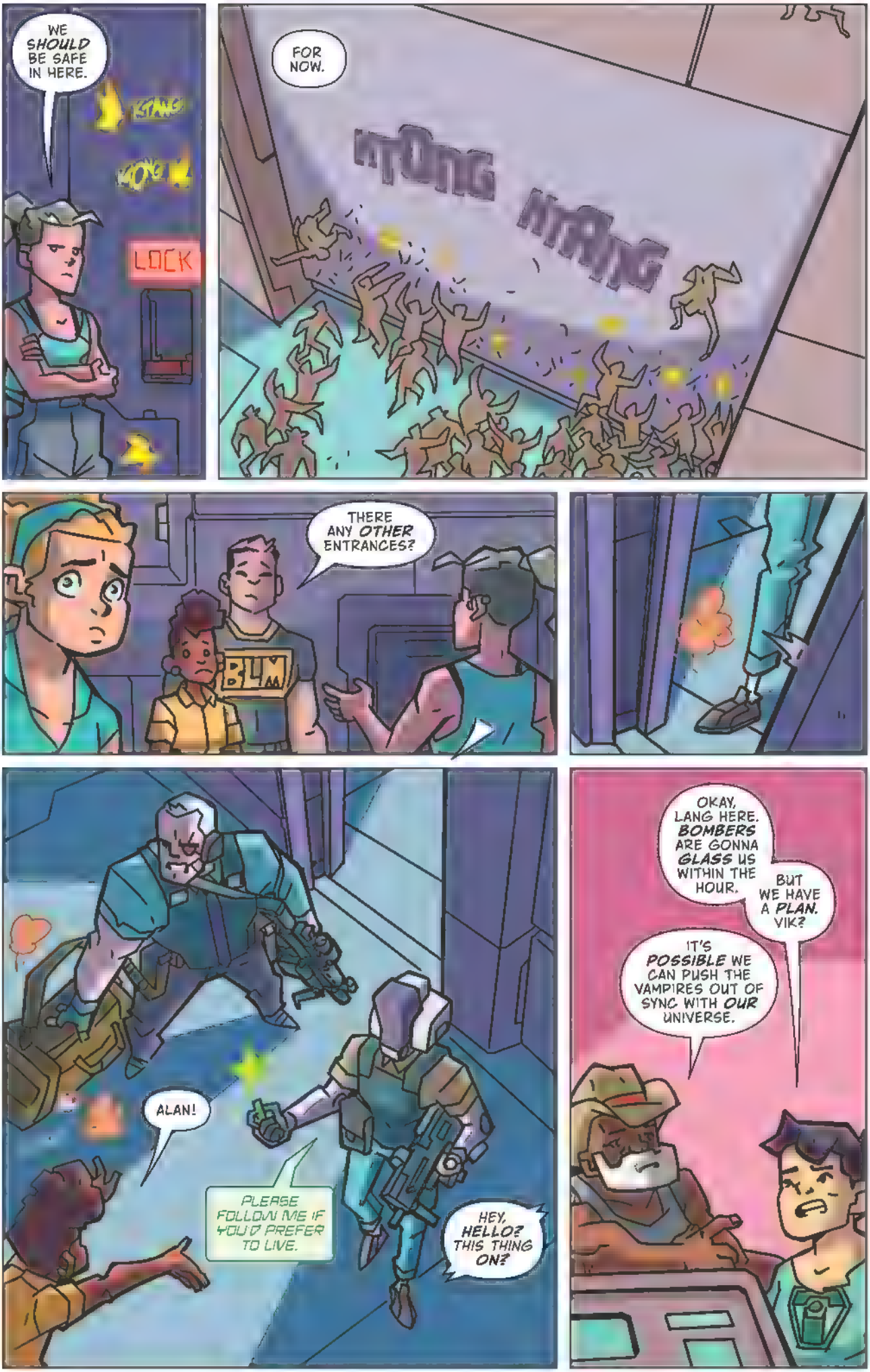

ROBO HERE.
SYNCING TO LOCAL TAC-NET.
STATUS REPORTS.
VIK AND LANG. NORTHEAST QUADRANT.
OLD RADAR STATION'S OUR NEAREST BUNKER.
EN ROUTE NOW
NO VISUAL ON TARGETS.
JENKINS HERE. ALAN AND I LOCKED DOWN SAT COM.
WE CAN TRACK THE VAMPIRES BY THEIR ANOMALOUS ODIC SIGNATURES. IT'S NOT PRECISE BUT IT'LL GIVE US AN IDEA OF THEIR MOVEMENTS
FOLEY HERE.
I'VE GOT EVERYONE ELSE.
WE'RE SECURING THE GARAGE.
AND WE'VE GOT INCOMING.

I'VE GOT YOUR LOCATIONS.
VAMPIRES TOO. THANKS, ALAN
JENKINS, YOU'RE CLOSEST TO FOLEY'S CREW.
GET THEM TO SAT COM.
I'LL CREATE A DISTRACTION.

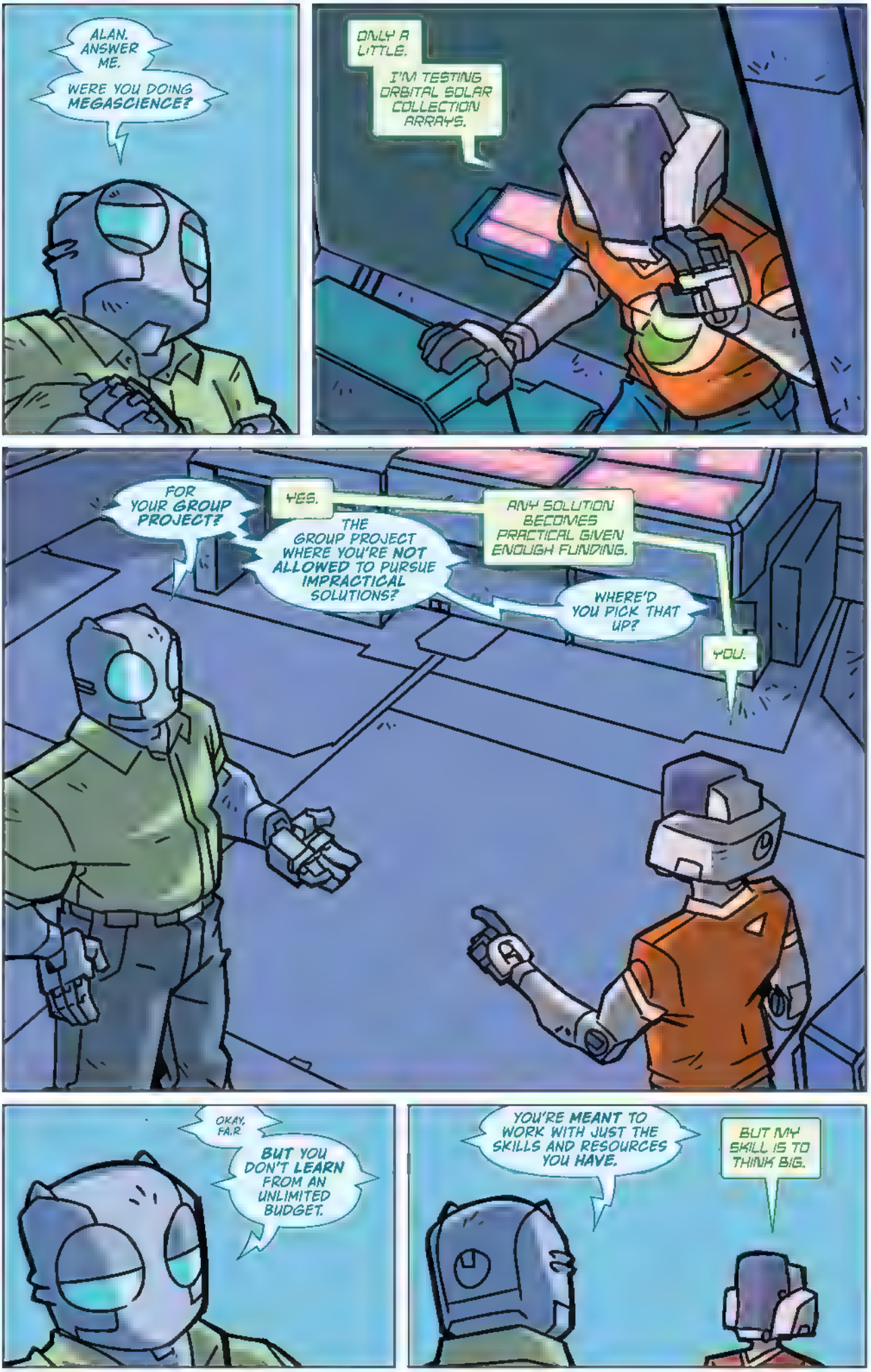
FATHOOM
I CAN DO THIS ALL DAY!
I EVER TELL YOU GUYS ABOUT REX CANNON?
REX CANNON IS DEAD.
BEHOLD VAMPIRICUS REX!
I'M SORRY, WE ALREADY HAVE SOMEONE WHO DOES "BEHOLD" ALL THE TIME.
IT WAS JUST AFTER WE MET, ACTUALLY THERE WAS THIS DINO--
WUMP
UM.
KONG
WE CAN'T REASON WITH HIM.
FSHHHH

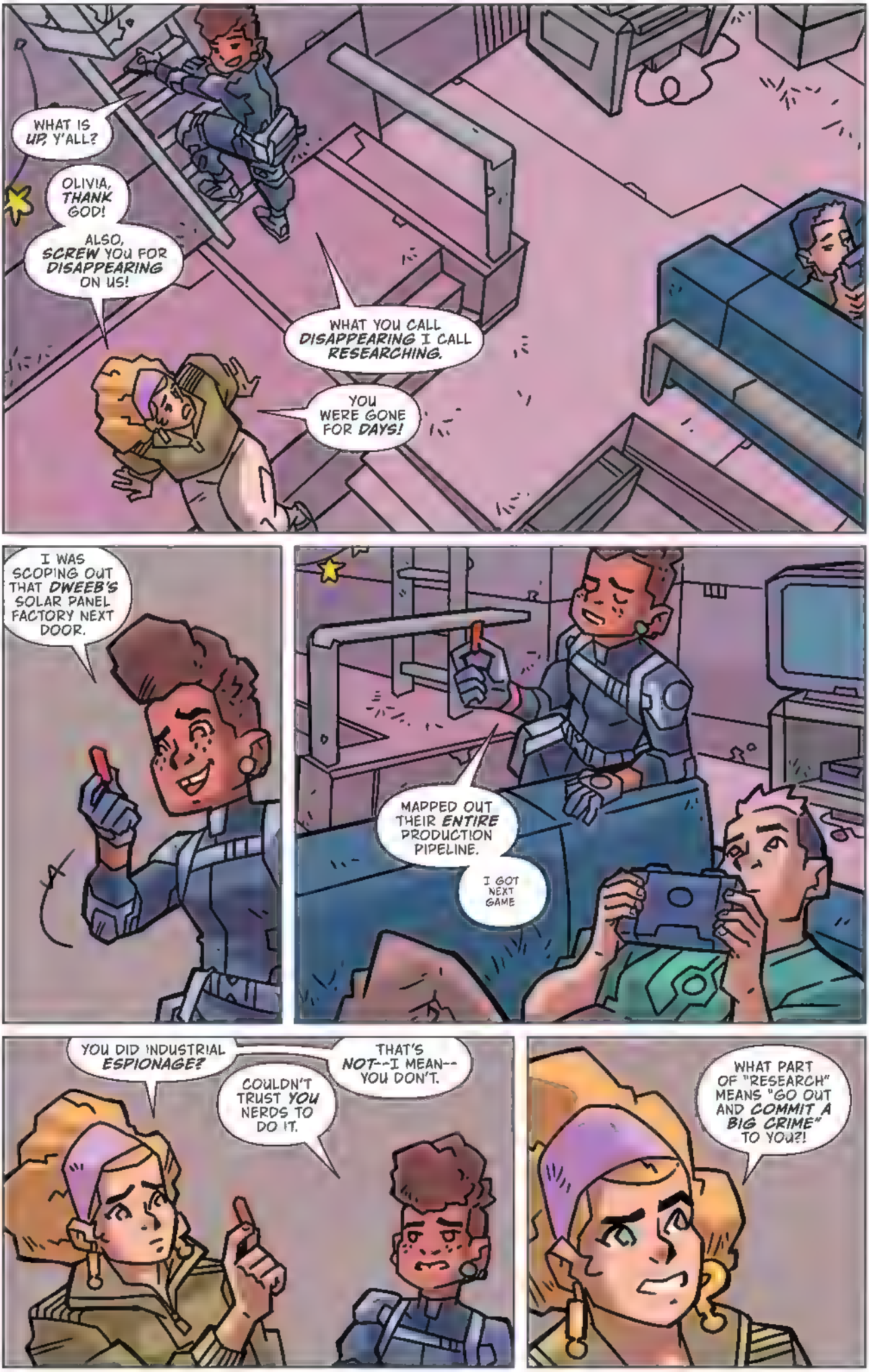
I'M COMING WITH YOU.
YOU'D ONLY SLOW ME DOWN.
YOU SAID I WAS THE SQUAD FUNNY MAN. YOU GAVE ME A CODE NAME
LAUGHING SCORPION IS RIDE OR DIE.
I NEED YOU ON COMS AND TRACKING OUR TARGETS, SCORP.
I CAN DO THAT REMOTELY VIA THE DRONES. IN EFFECT I'LL HAVE RADAR VISION
PLUS THE VAMPIRES CAN'T BITE ME.
TECHNICALLY YOU'LL BE SLOWING ME DOWN.
STICK CLOSE.
KCHK
BOOP
CALL YOUR TARGETS.
FOLLOW MY LEAD.
HSSS!
SKREEE!
BRAKKA DAKKA

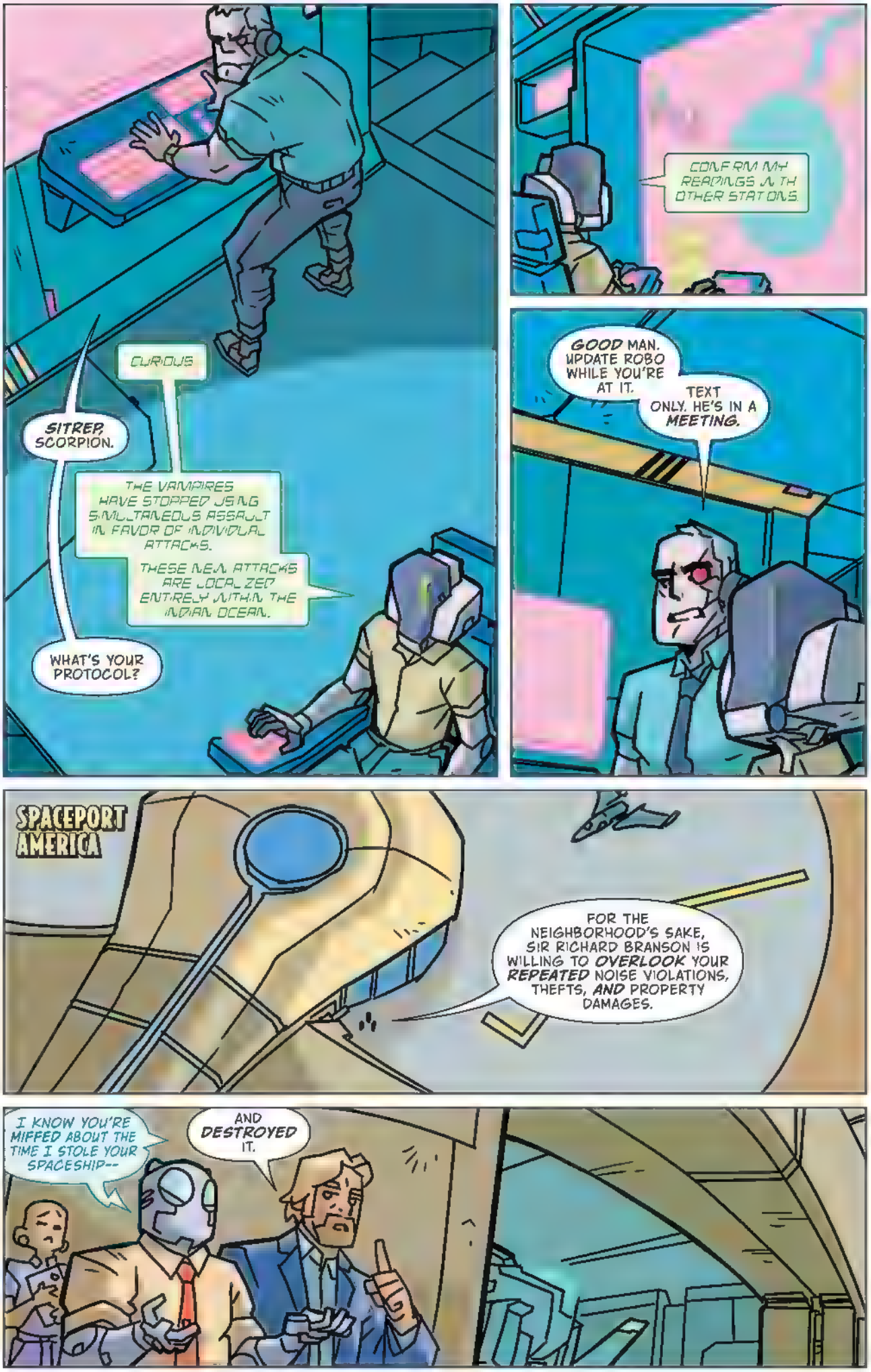
SIX THOUSAND YEARS, ROBO. THAT'S HOW LONG I'VE WAITED.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORST PART WAS?
NOT THE DARKNESS, OR THE DEATH, OR THE HUNGER.
NO. THE WORST PART?
IT ONLY TOOK FIVE HUNDRED YEARS TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO COME BACK.
BUT YOU NEED MORE THAN ONE SET OF HANDS TO BUILD A BLOOD-POWERED MULTIPHAS.C SIPHON TO PIERCE THE BARRIER BETWEEN UN.VERSES.
THESE CREATURES OBEY MY COMMANDS, MY THOUGHTS, BUT THEIR FINE MOTOR CONTROL LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED.
SO I TOILED.
ON A DEAD WORLD, UNDER A DEAD SUN.
FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.
FOR THIS MOMENT.
YOU FINISHED?
'CAUSE NO ONE'S HOLDING MY LEGS.
SWEEP
WHAM!


WE SHOULD BE SAFE IN HERE.
LOCK
FOR NOW.
THERE ANY OTHER ENTRANCES?
BLM
OKAY, LANG HERE. BOMBERS ARE GONNA GLASS US WITHIN THE HOUR.
BUT WE HAVE A PLAN. VIK?
IT'S POSSIBLE WE CAN PUSH THE VAMPIRES OUT OF SYNC WITH OUR UNIVERSE.
ALAN!
PLEASE FOLLOW ME IF YOU'D PREFER TO LIVE.
HEY, HELLO? THIS THING ON?

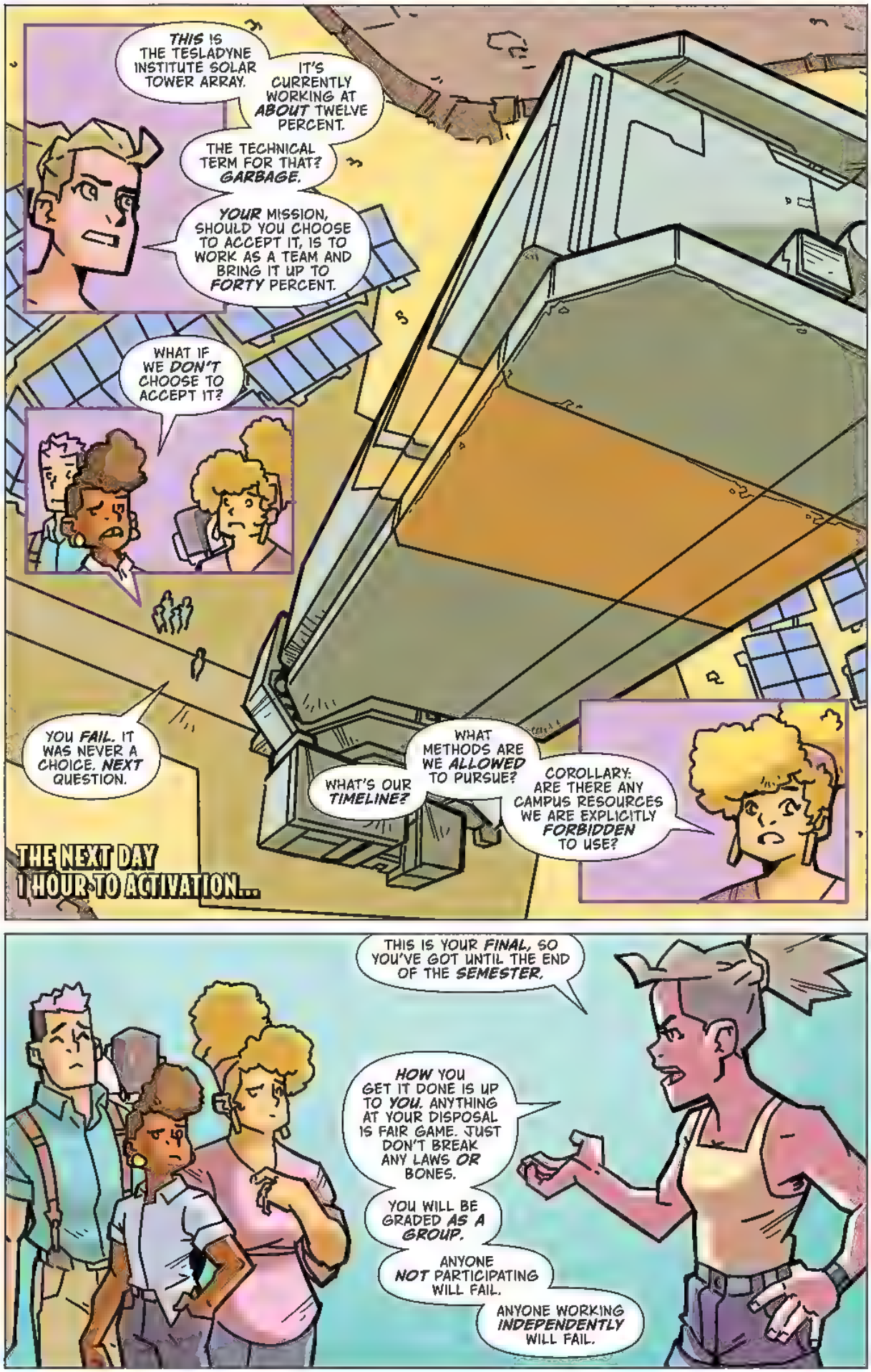
YOU'RE GONNA NUKE US?!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT!
WE CAN KEEP THEM CONTAINED!
THAT WOULD BE IDEAL.
HOW LONG DO WE HAVE? I NEED TO GET MY PEOPLE OUT OF HERE!
YOU KNOW THAT WOULD ONLY INVITE ADDITIONAL CROSSBOW STRIKES.
EVEN ONE OF THESE CREATURES IS A THREAT TO ALL LIFE ON EARTH.
I'M SORRY, DOCTOR LANG. MY HANDS ARE TIED.

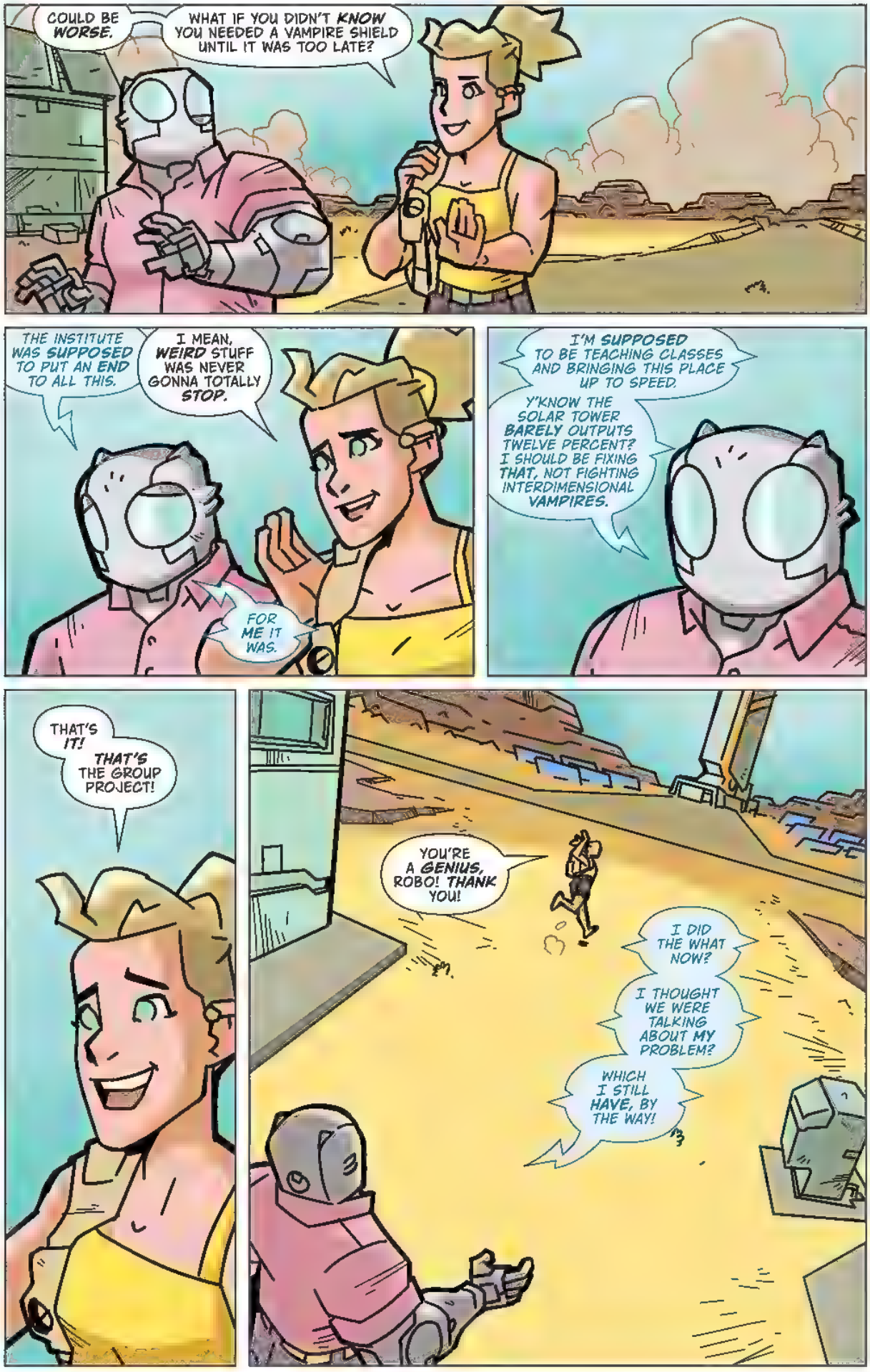

ALAN. ANSWER ME.
WERE YOU DOING MEGASCIENCE?
ONLY A LITTLE.
I'M TESTING ORBITAL SOLAR COLLECTION ARRAYS.
FOR YOUR GROUP PROJECT?
YES.
THE GROUP PROJECT WHERE YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO PURSUE IMPRACTICAL SOLUTIONS?
ANY SOLUTION BECOMES PRACTICAL GIVEN ENOUGH FUNDING.
WHERE'D YOU PICK THAT UP?
YOU.
OKAY, FAIR.
BUT YOU DON'T LEARN FROM AN UNLIMITED BUDGET.
YOU'RE MEANT TO WORK WITH JUST THE SKILLS AND RESOURCES YOU HAVE.
BUT MY SKILL IS TO THINK BIG.


WHAT IS UP, Y'ALL?
OLIVIA, THANK GOD!
ALSO, SCREW YOU FOR DISAPPEARING ON US!
WHAT YOU CALL DISAPPEARING I CALL RESEARCHING.
YOU WERE GONE FOR DAYS!
I WAS SCOPING OUT THAT DWEEB'S SOLAR PANEL FACTORY NEXT DOOR.
MAPPED OUT THEIR ENTIRE PRODUCTION PIPELINE.
I GOT NEXT GAME
YOU DID INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE?
COULDN'T TRUST YOU NERDS TO DO IT.
THAT'S NOT--I MEAN-- YOU DON'T.
WHAT PART OF "RESEARCH" MEANS "GO OUT AND COMMIT A BIG CRIME" TO YOU?!

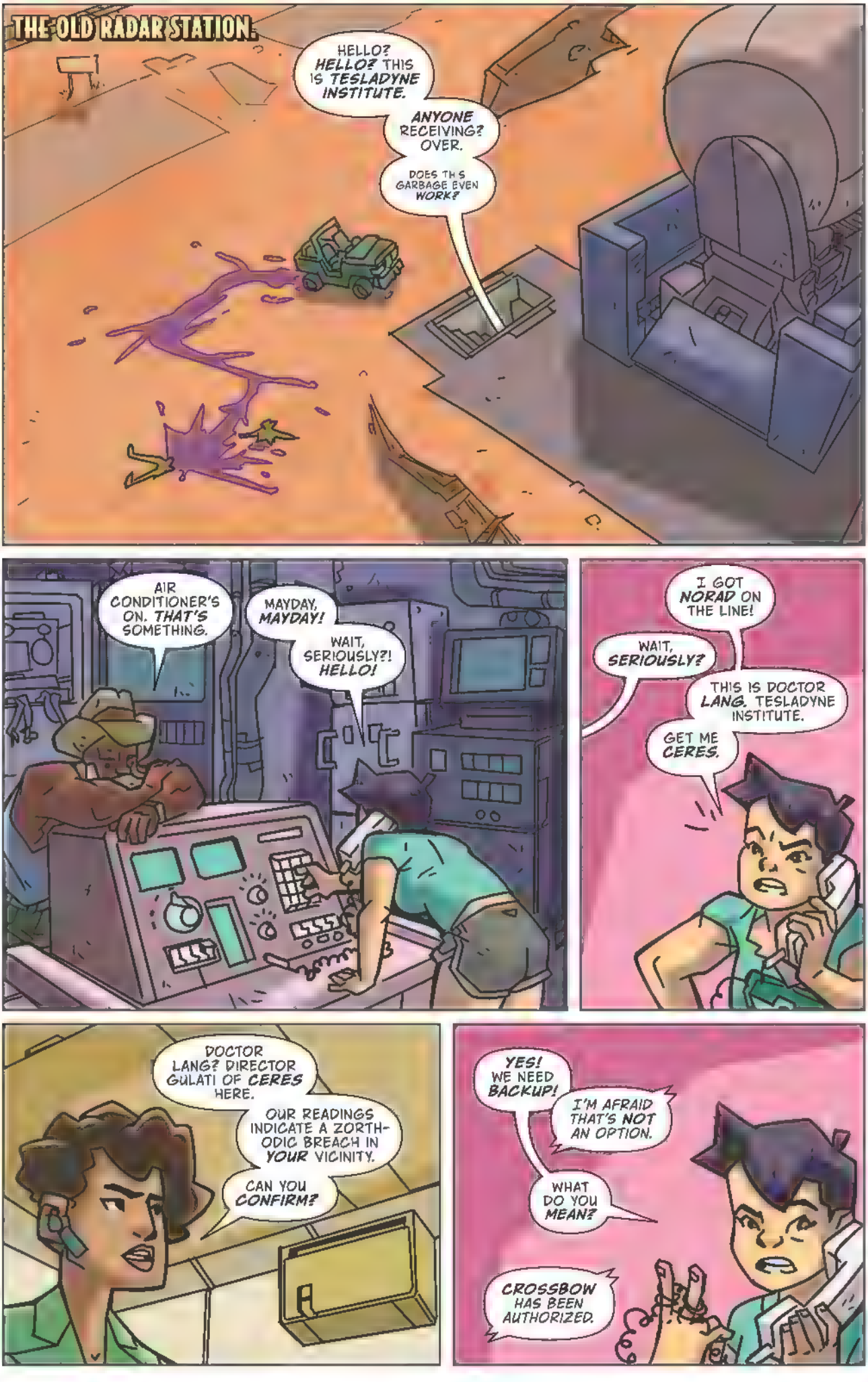

CONFIRM MY READINGS WITH OTHER STATIONS.
GOOD MAN. UPDATE ROBO WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
TEXT ONLY. HE'S IN A MEETING.
CURIOUS.
SITREP, SCORPION.
THE VAMPIRES HAVE STOPPED USING SIMULTANEOUS ASSAULT IN FAVOR OF INDIVIDUAL ATTACKS.
THESE NEW ATTACKS ARE LOCALIZED ENTIRELY WITHIN THE INDIAN OCEAN.
WHAT'S YOUR PROTOCOL?
SPACEPORT AMERICA
FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD'S SAKE, SIR RICHARD BRANSON IS WILLING TO OVERLOOK YOUR REPEATED NOISE VIOLATIONS, THEFTS, AND PROPERTY DAMAGES.
I KNOW YOU'RE MIFFED ABOUT THE TIME I STOLE YOUR SPACESHIP--
AND DESTROYED IT.

OUR PROJECT IS TO FIX THE INSTITUTE'S SOLAR ARRAY. OUR NEIGHBOR IS A JERK WITH A SOLAR PANEL FACTORY. DO THE MATH.
WE COULD'VE ASKED FOR A TOUR!
THEN IT'S HARDLY BREAKING AND ENTERING IF THEY WERE JUST GONNA LET ME IN.
PRETTY SURE THAT'S NOT HOW LAW WO
SO ANYWAY WHAT ARE YOU GUYS UP TO?
BECAUSE SO FAR IT FEELS LIKE I'M THE ONE DOING ALL THE WORK FOR THIS PROJECT.
I WILL REVIEW THE ESPIONAGE--
RESEARCH!
--FOR ANYTHING THAT ISN'T CONFIDENTIAL.
BEN, IF YOU WOULD, KINDLY GET OFF YOUR DUFF AND AT LEAST GET THE WORKSHOP READY TO MAKE SOME PROTOTYPES?
DUFF?
WHO SAYS DUFF?


THIS IS THE TESLADYNE INSTITUTE SOLAR TOWER ARRAY.
IT'S CURRENTLY WORKING AT ABOUT TWELVE PERCENT.
THE TECHNICAL TERM FOR THAT? GARBAGE.
YOUR MISSION, SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT, IS TO WORK AS A TEAM AND BRING IT UP TO FORTY PERCENT.
WHAT IF WE DON'T CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT?
YOU FAIL. IT WAS NEVER A CHOICE. NEXT QUESTION.
WHAT'S OUR TIMELINE?
WHAT METHODS ARE WE ALLOWED TO PURSUE?
COROLLARY: ARE THERE ANY CAMPUS RESOURCES WE ARE EXPLICITLY FORBIDDEN TO USE?
THE NEXT DAY
1 HOUR TO ACTIVATION...
THIS IS YOUR FINAL, SO YOU'VE GOT UNTIL THE END OF THE SEMESTER.
HOW YOU GET IT DONE IS UP TO YOU. ANYTHING AT YOUR DISPOSAL IS FAIR GAME. JUST DON'T BREAK ANY LAWS OR BONES.
YOU WILL BE GRADED AS A GROUP.
ANYONE NOT PARTICIPATING WILL FAIL.
ANYONE WORKING INDEPENDENTLY WILL FAIL.


COULD BE WORSE.
WHAT IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED A VAMPIRE SHIELD UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE?
THE INSTITUTE WAS SUPPOSED TO PUT AN END TO ALL THIS.
I MEAN, WEIRD STUFF WAS NEVER GONNA TOTALLY STOP.
FOR ME IT WAS.
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE TEACHING CLASSES AND BRINGING THIS PLACE UP TO SPEED.
Y'KNOW THE SOLAR TOWER BARELY OUTPUTS TWELVE PERCENT? I SHOULD BE FIXING THAT, NOT FIGHTING INTERDIMENSIONAL VAMPIRES.
THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE GROUP PROJECT!
YOU'RE A GENIUS, ROBO! THANK YOU!
I DID THE WHAT NOW?
I THOUGHT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT MY PROBLEM?
WHICH I STILL HAVE, BY THE WAY!

THEY'RE DOING GREAT ON THEIR INDEPENDENT PROJECTS.
YEAH.
INDIVIDUALLY THEY'RE HITTING OR EXCEEDING OUR GOALS.
AS A GROUP IT'S JUST COMPLETE DYSFUNCTION.
OUR ADMISSIONS PROCESS SCREENED FOR COMPATIBILITY.
LIKE IN A BIG WAY.
THEIR DIFFERENCES ARE MEANT TO BE A SELF-REGULATING MIX OF IDEAS AND ATTITUDES THAT BRING OUT THE BEST IN EACH OF THEM.
THAKKA
THAKKA
INSTEAD THEY EITHER PUSH THEMSELVES INTO RIDICULOUS CORNERS--
VIK STILL WANTS TO BUILD THEIR PAPER AIRPLANE WARP DRIVE.
--OR THEY END UP IGNORING EACH OTHER AND WORKING ON THREE COMPETING PROJECTS.
THAKKA


THE OLD RADAR STATION.
HELLO? HELLO? THIS IS TESLADYNE INSTITUTE.
ANYONE RECEIVING? OVER.
DOES THIS GARBAGE EVEN WORK?
AIR CONDITIONER'S ON. THAT'S SOMETHING.
MAYDAY, MAYDAY!
WAIT, SERIOUSLY?! HELLO!
I GOT NORAD ON THE LINE!
WAIT, SERIOUSLY?
THIS IS DOCTOR LANG. TESLADYNE INSTITUTE.
GET ME CERES.
DOCTOR LANG? DIRECTOR GULATI OF CERES HERE.
OUR READINGS INDICATE A ZORTHODIC BREACH IN YOUR VICINITY.
CAN YOU CONFIRM?
YES! WE NEED BACKUP!
I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT AN OPTION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
CROSSBOW HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED.

DADDY'S HOME!
WHAT'CHA GOT THERE, BUDDY?
TK
YES.
WHAT?
NOP
ALAN.

ROBO, YOU REMEMBER BERNIE'S LASER CRYSTAL THING?
SURE. HOW DO WE DO IT WITHOUT ALL THE STUFF THAT MADE IT WORK?
WE'LL HAVE TO IMPROVISE.
THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IS POWER. WE'LL NEED AT LEAST A GIGAWATT. MAYBE MORE.
BUT ONLY FOR A MICRO-SECOND.
THE SAKHAROV GENERATOR!
THE WHAT?
IT'S WITH THE SOVIET JUNK DOWN IN SILO 2.
THAT AREA'S RESTRICTED!
LIVE NOW, PUNISH LATER, FOLEY.
BEN, DOES IT WORK?
BWANG
IT ALMOST WORKS.
OKAY, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO
KLONG
THEN IT'S A MATTER OF GETTING THAT ENERGY INTO THE ODIC FIELD.
SOLAR ARRAY. SELENIUM CONDUCTS ODIC ENERGY LIKE CRAZY.
WE'RE ON IT, ROBO!

WHAT 'N GOD'S NAME S HE PLAY NG AT?
CAN'T SEE A BLOODY THING.
GET MY PHONE.
HELLO, ROBO. SIR RICHARD BRANSON HERE. WE WERE JUST WONDERING IF YOU WERE ALL RIGHT.
OH, UH, YUP. DOIN' FINE.
JUST HAD A LITTLE EMERGENCY.
A LAVATORY EMERGENCY.
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS FOR US SENIORS.
YOU'RE A BLOODY ROBOT!
WHEN SHALL WE EXPECT YOUR RETURN?
SOMETHING'S COME UP
YES, THERE SEEMS TO BE AN UNUSUAL AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY ON YOUR PROPERTY.
BUSY DAY OVER HERE.
SOUNDS LIKE HEAVY MACHINERY.
MUST BE THE CONNECTION.
ANYWAY, I BETTER LET YOU GO!

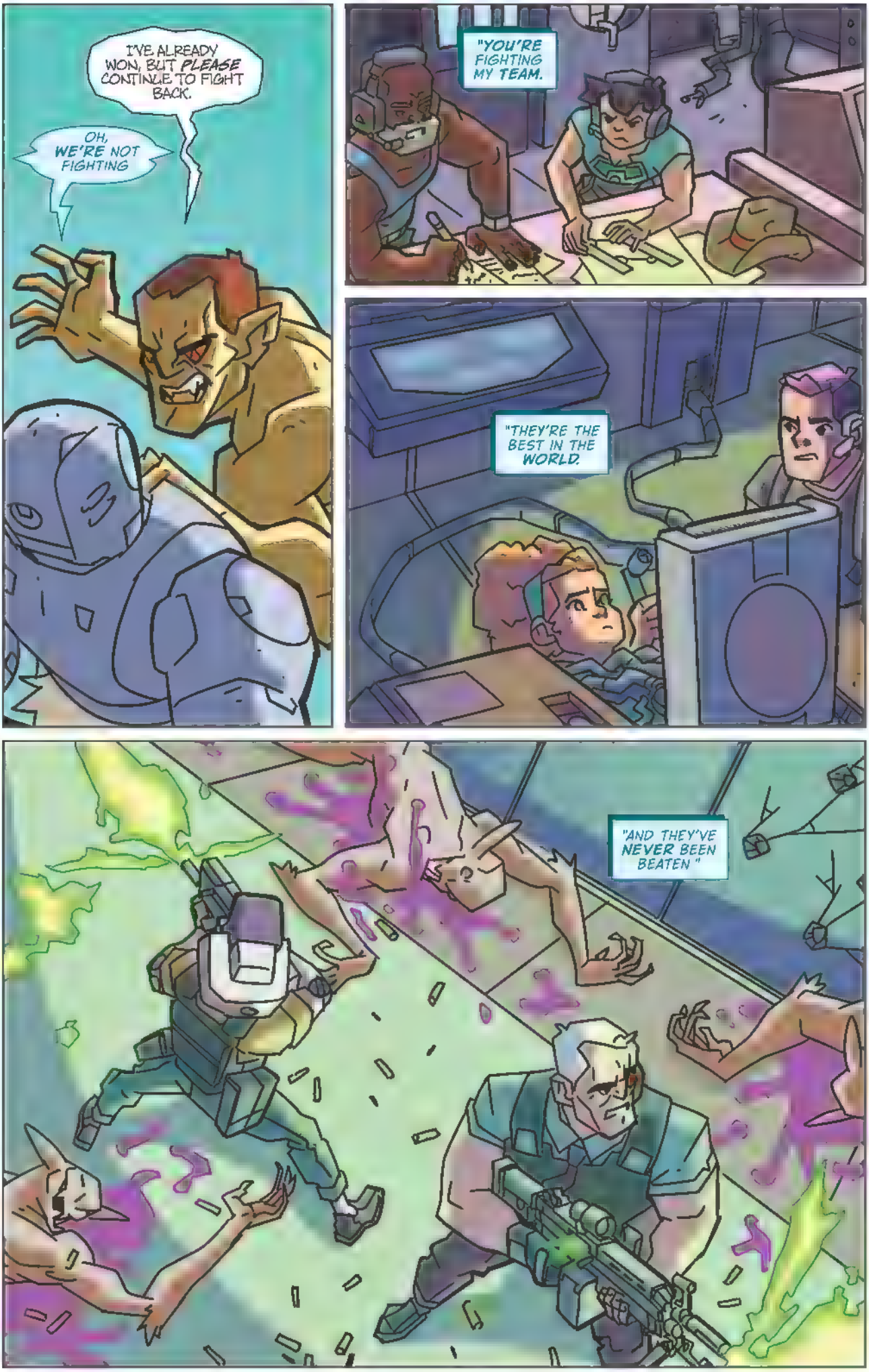
EVERYONE'S HEADING FOR THE SOLAR ARRAY.
ROBO'S GONNA TACKLE THE GENERATOR.
WHAT CAN WE DO?
THE MATH.
MR JENKINS?
GO AHEAD, SCORP.
I HAVE INCOMING.
ROBO CAN'T KEEP THEM ALL BUSY.
SOME WERE BOUND TO BREAK OFF AND FOLLOW US.
BUT THEY'RE ALSO UP AHEAD
BETWEEN US AND THE SOLAR ARRAY

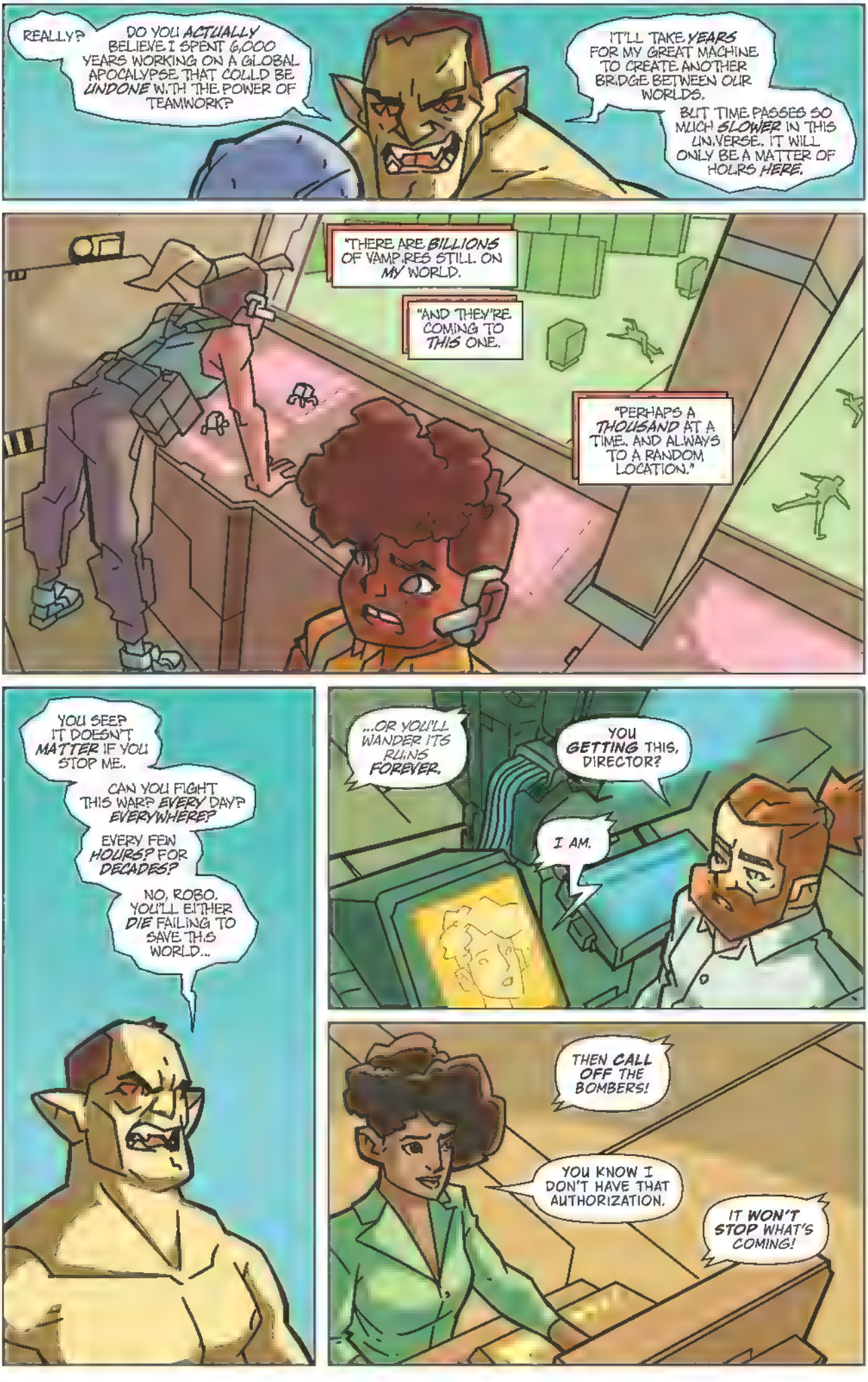
YOU REALIZE IT'S HOPELESS.
OH, GOOD, WE'RE ALREADY AT THE PART OF YOUR BRILLIANT PLAN FOR WORLD DOMINATION WHERE YOU TELL ME IT'S HOPELESS JUST BEFORE YOU LOSE.
I'M NOT HERE TO RULE YOUR WORLD.
I'M HERE TO BURN IT.
AND LEMME GUESS, YOU'RE STARTING WITH ME.
THIS STARTED WHEN YOU CONDEMNED ME TO A LIVING HELL!
UNLIVING HELL.
WE'RE SCIENTISTS, REX. TERMINOLOGY MATTERS.
YOU'RE NOT AS CLEVER AS YOU THINK.

JENKINS THEY'RE CLOSING IN ON YOUR LOCATION.
GOOD.
MOVE FOR THE TOWER AS SOON AS YOU HAVE A CLEAR PATH.
I REALIZE WE SHOULDA WORKED THIS OUT EARLIER, JENKINS.
BUT HOW ARE YOU GONNA GET INSIDE ONCE WE'VE SET UP A BARRICADE?
REMEMBER. SHORT, CONTROLLED BURSTS.
CALL YOUR TARGETS.
THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER.
STICK TO THE PLAN, FOLEY.
NO ONE DIES TODAY.
HSSSSS
CHUNK CHUNK CHUNK

OKAY, WE'RE IN.
NO MOVEMENT. BUILDING IS CLEAN.
OKAY. BEN.
WE'RE SECURING THIS EXIT.
OLIVIA, MARGOT. YOU SEAL THE FRONT.
ALAN, YOU--
I'M SORRY, MS. FOLEY.
BUT LAUGHING SCORPION LEAVES NO MAN BEHIND.
ALAN?

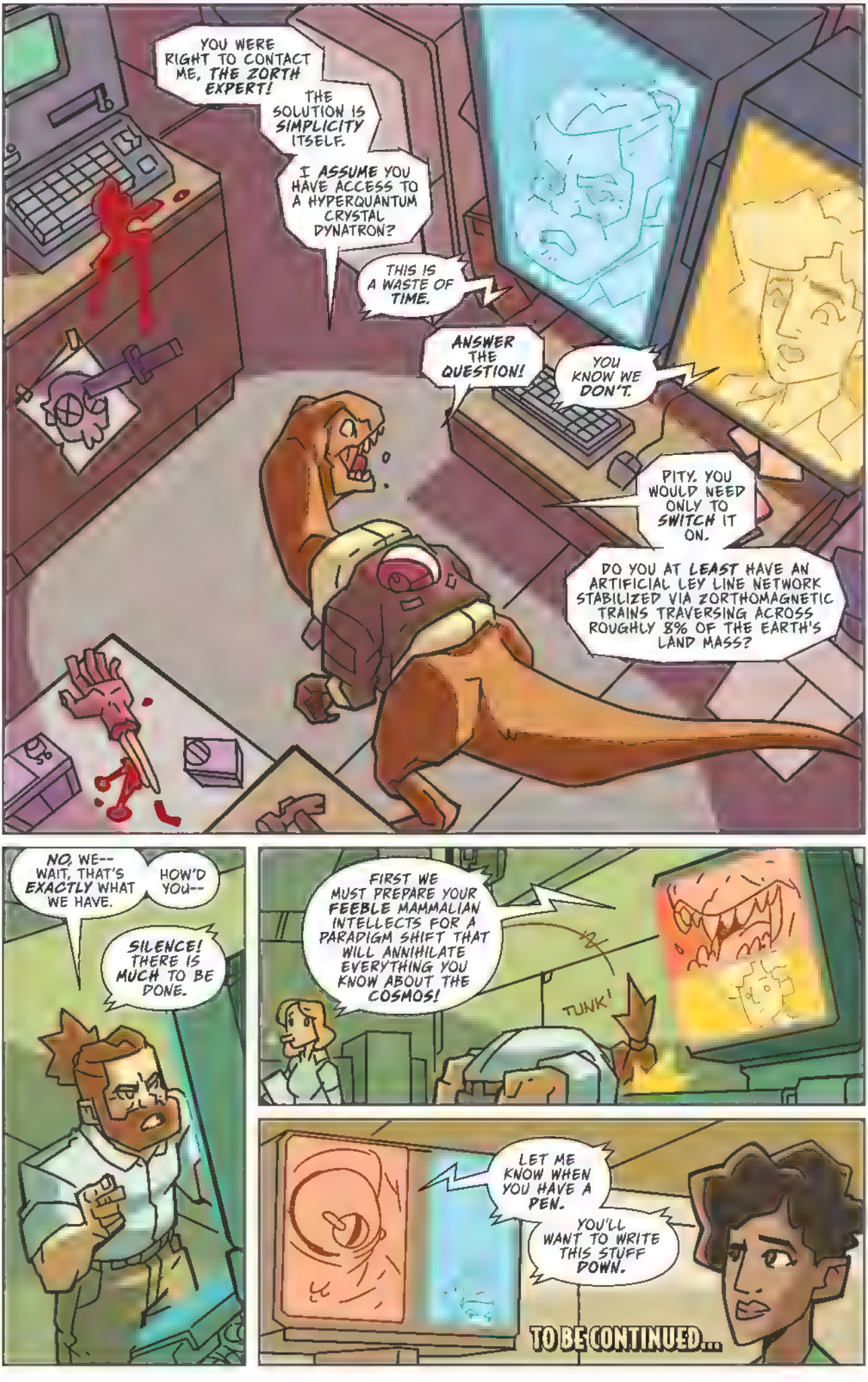
BOUNCE
SILO 2
OUCH
KRUFF KRUFF
HSSSS!
SMALL PROBLEM AT SILO 2.
THERE'S A SUPERSTRONG VAMPIRE HERE AND HE HATES ME.
NO MORE WITTY RETORTS?
BUT YOU ADMIT THEY'RE WITTY


I'VE ALREADY WON, BUT PLEASE CONTINUE TO FIGHT BACK.
OH, WE'RE NOT FIGHTING
"YOU'RE FIGHTING MY TEAM.
"THEY'RE THE BEST IN THE WORLD.
"AND THEY'VE NEVER BEEN BEATEN."

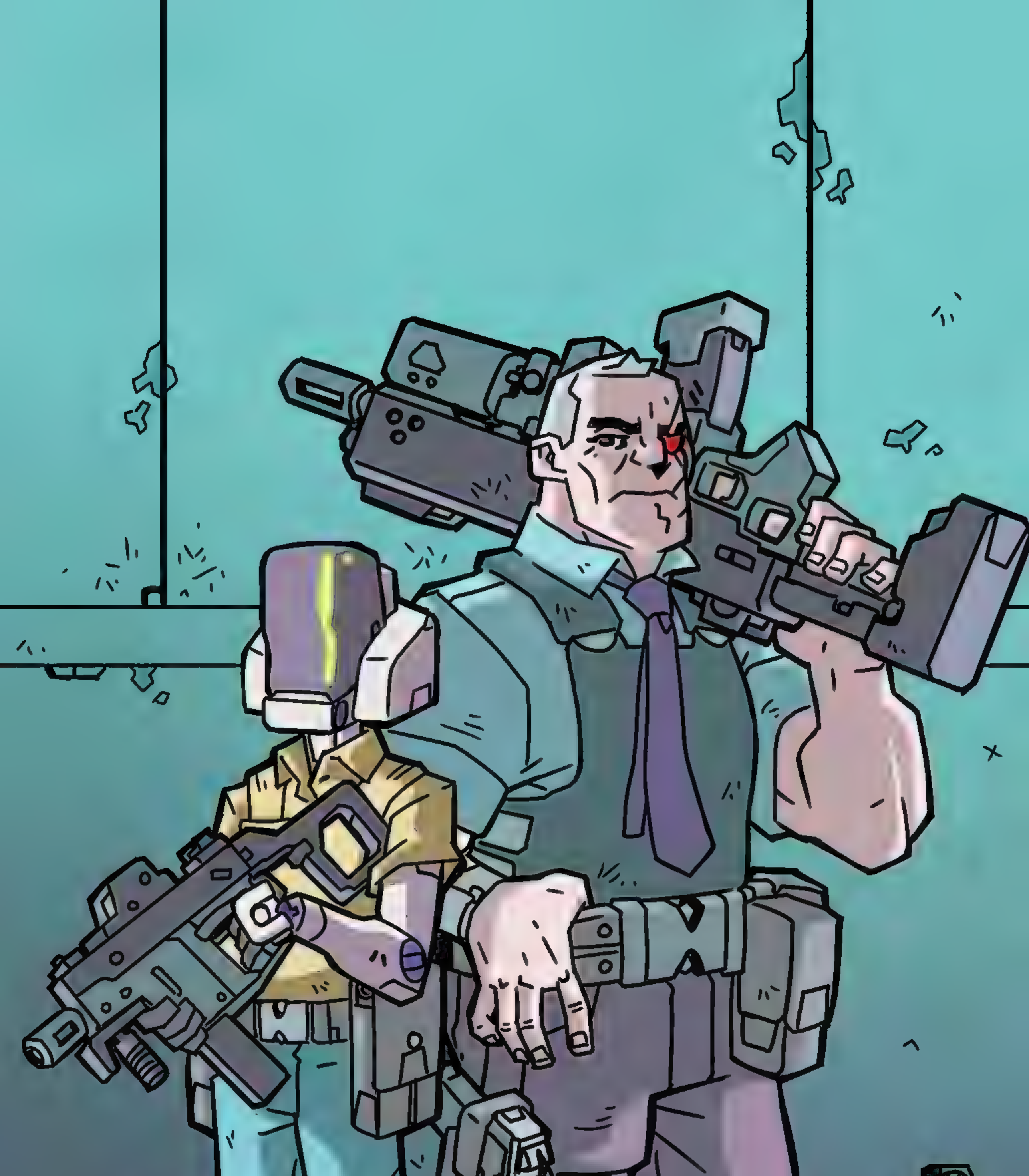

REALLY?
DO YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE I SPENT 6,000 YEARS WORKING ON A GLOBAL APOCALYPSE THAT COULD BE UNDONE WITH THE POWER OF TEAMWORK?
IT'LL TAKE YEARS FOR MY GREAT MACHINE TO CREATE ANOTHER BRIDGE BETWEEN OUR WORLDS.
BUT TIME PASSES SO MUCH SLOWER IN THIS UNIVERSE. IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF HOURS HERE.
"THERE ARE BILLIONS OF VAMPIRES STILL ON MY WORLD.
"AND THEY'RE COMING TO THIS ONE.
"PERHAPS A THOUSAND AT A TIME. AND ALWAYS TO A RANDOM LOCATION."
YOU SEE? IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU STOP ME.
CAN YOU FIGHT THIS WARP EVERY DAY? EVERYWHERE?
EVERY FEW HOURS? FOR DECADES?
NO, ROBO. YOU'LL EITHER DIE FAILING TO SAVE THIS WORLD...
...OR YOU'LL WANDER ITS RUINS FOREVER.
YOU GETTING THIS, DIRECTOR?
I AM.
THEN CALL OFF THE BOMBERS!
YOU KNOW I DON'T HAVE THAT AUTHORIZATION.
IT WON'T STOP WHAT'S COMING!

WE'RE LOOKING AT BREACHES ACROSS THE PLANET!
NOT NECESSARILY.
REX MADE THOUSANDS OF ATTEMPTS BEFORE HE GOT THROUGH.
WE CAN USE THAT DATA TO REPLICATE THEIR ATTACK VECTOR.
AND THEN STRIKE BACK AT THEM VIA ZORTH MANIPULATIONS OF OUR LEY LINE NETWORK.
THE LEADING EXPERT IN ZORTH CARTOGRAPHY IS UNAVAILABLE AND GETTING BEATEN TO DEATH.
WE'LL HAVE TO SETTLE FOR NEXT BEST EXPERT.
HEAVEN HELP US..
SKREEE!
DAKKA DAKKA
BRATTA DAT
SKREKK!
TOLD YOU YOU'D ONLY SLOW ME DOWN.
BRAKK
THAT'S OKAY. YOU'RE SLOWING ME DOWN TOO.

OKAY! THAT SHOULD DO IT.
THE POWER JUNCTIONS ARE NOW ODIC CONVERTERS AND THEY MIGHT NOT EVEN EXPLODE.
OH, WE NEVER PROMISED THAT.
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, OUR FIGURES ARE WITHIN AN ACCEPTABLE MARGIN OF ERROR.
HOW MUCH IS THAT, EXACTLY?
DO NOT GIVE MARGOT A NUMBER. MANUAL OVERRIDE IS READY.
BAD NEWS IS OUR POWER GRID'S GONNA BURN OUT DOIN' THIS SO WE HAVE ONE SHOT.
WE JUST NEED THE GO SIGNAL FROM YOU, ROBO.
HOW'S YOUR SAKHAROV GENERATOR LOOKING?
UH, ROBO?
YOU READ US, BIG GUY?
LITTLE TROUBLE GETTING INTO SILO 2

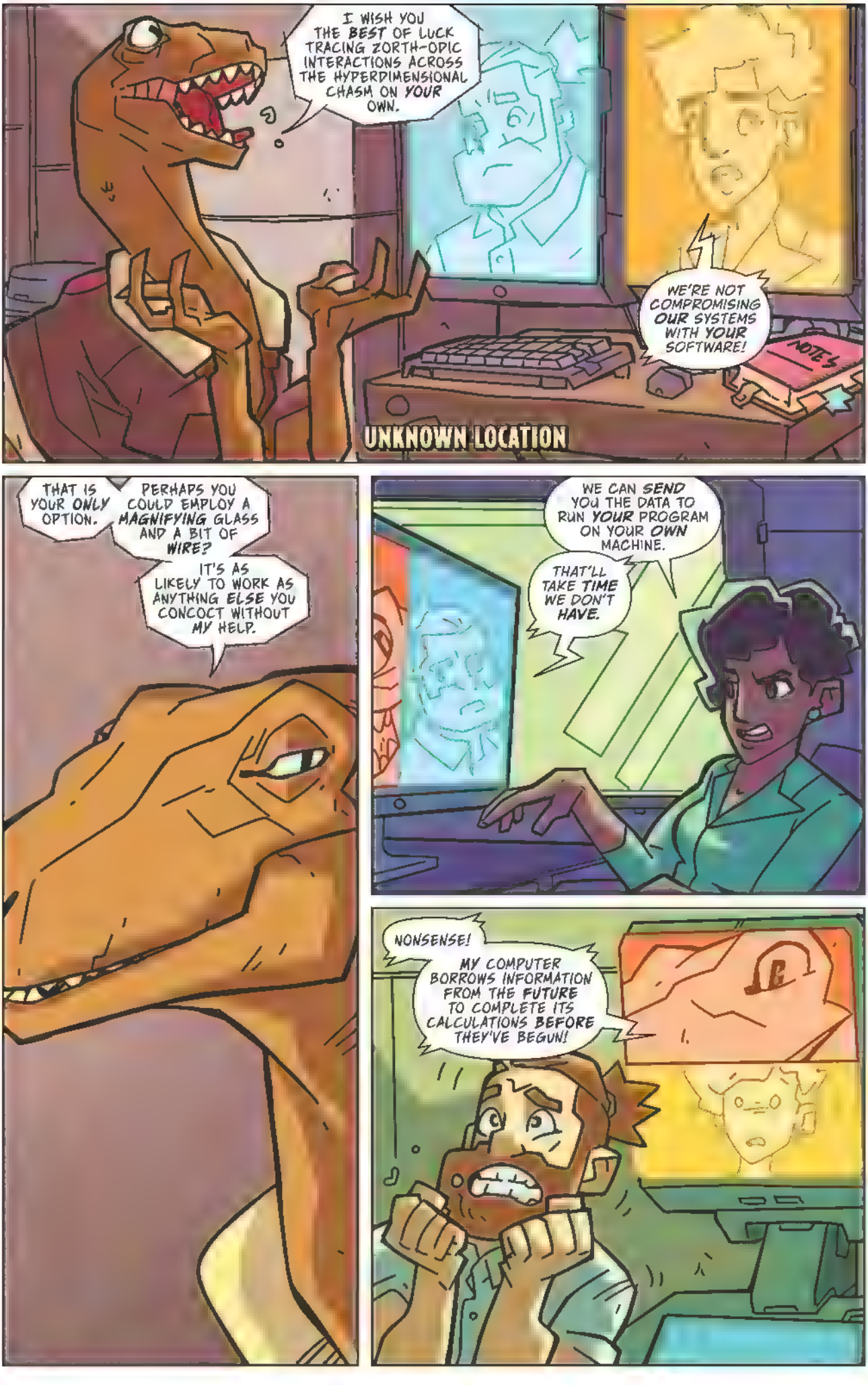

YOU WERE RIGHT TO CONTACT ME, THE ZORTH EXPERT!
THE SOLUTION IS SIMPLICITY ITSELF.
I ASSUME YOU HAVE ACCESS TO A HYPERQUANTUM CRYSTAL DYNATRON?
THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.
ANSWER THE QUESTION!
YOU KNOW WE DON'T.
PITY. YOU WOULD NEED ONLY TO SWITCH IT ON.
DO YOU AT LEAST HAVE AN ARTIFICIAL LEY LINE NETWORK STABILIZED VIA ZORTHOMAGNETIC TRAINS TRAVERSING ACROSS ROUGHLY 8% OF THE EARTH'S LAND MASS?
NO. WE-- WAIT, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE.
HOW'D YOU--
SILENCE! THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE.
FIRST WE MUST PREPARE YOUR FEEBLE MAMMALIAN INTELLECTS FOR A PARADIGM SHIFT THAT WILL ANNIHILATE EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THE COSMOS!
TUNK!
LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE A PEN.
YOU'LL WANT TO WRITE THIS STUFF DOWN.
TO BE CONTINUED...

DID YOU HAVE AN EXIT STRATEGY FOR DISOBEYING MY ORDERS?
ARE YOU ASKING BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE AN EXIT PLAN FOR OBEYING THEM?
THAT'S CLASSIFIED.
THE DRONES ARE DOWNLOADING SCHEMATICS SO WE CAN FIND A WAY IN.
THEY'RE ALSO TRACKING APPROXIMATELY 150 VAMPIRES AND PARSING THREE CONVERSATIONS ON LOCAL COMS.
SO IT MIGHT BE A MINUTE. ALSO, DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE BOMBERS INBOUND?
D'AH!
SKREEE!
BOOM
THE DOWNLOAD IS COMPLETE.
THIS WAY.


W21

TESLADYNE INSTITUTE
RADAR TOWER (DECOMMISSIONED)
TRY IT NOW!
IF YOU'RE RIGHT, THIS SEQUENCE SHOULD UNLOCK SILO 2 FOR ROBO.
OR SET OFF SPRINKLERS SOMEWHERE.
CAPACITORS ARE PRIMED AND POLARITIES ARE REVERSED.
WE'RE AS READY AS WE'RE GONNA BE TO PUMP AN UNGODLY AMOUNT OF WEIRDO ENERGIES INTO THE ODIC FIELD USING OUR SOLAR ARRAY.
SOLAR FARM
OPERATIONS AND CONTROL STATION
STILL NO CONTACT FROM ROBO.
WE'RE BASICALLY DOOMED IF HE DOESN'T GET INTO SILO 2 AND JUMPSTART THE SAKHAROV GENERATOR SO OUR IMPOSSIBLE PLAN CAN GET GOING.

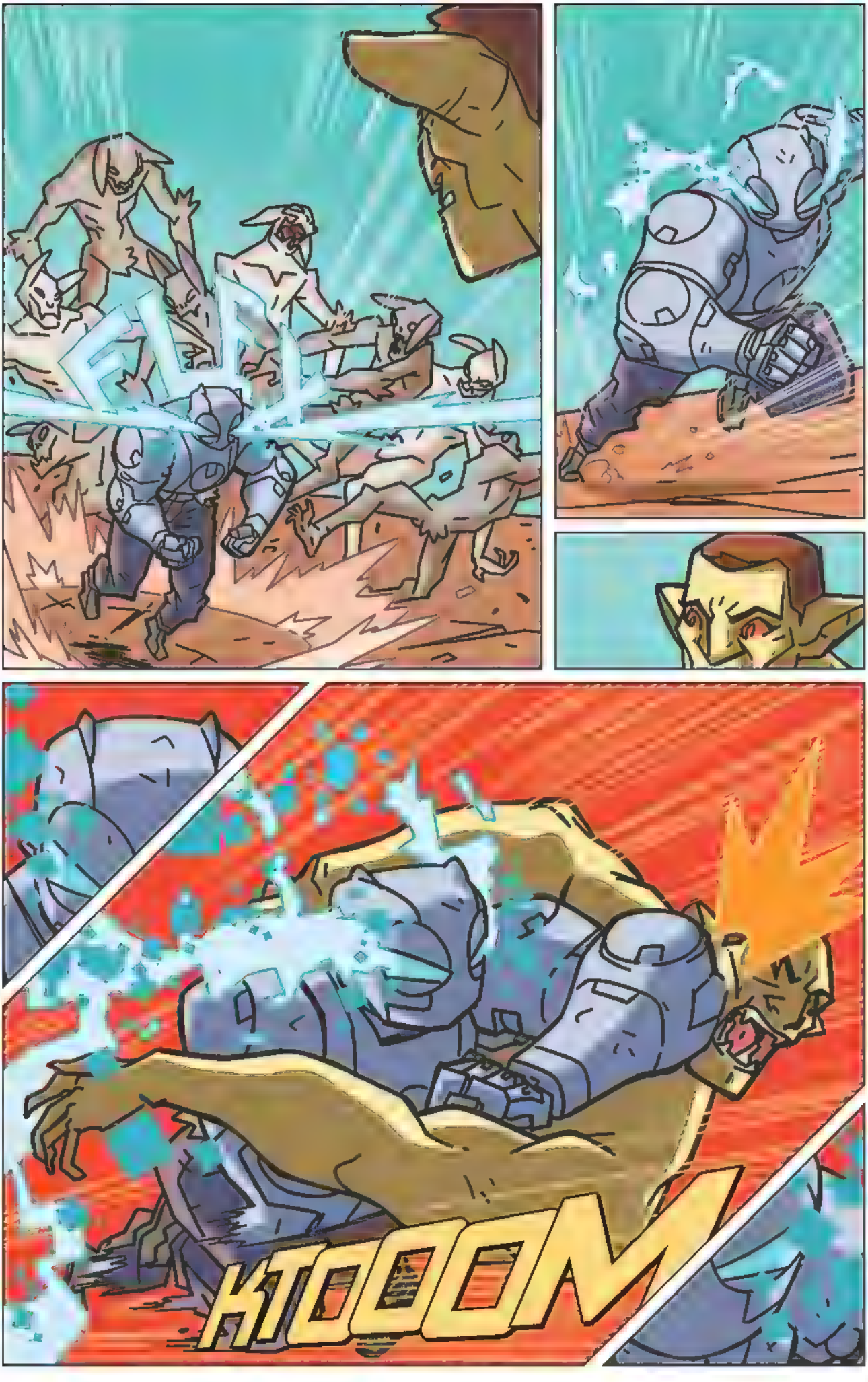
BREACHING.
CLEAR
HOW'S YOUR AMMO?
NOT ENOUGH.
TAKE MY HOLDOUT PISTOL.
IT'S NOT MUCH BUT EVERY SHOT COUNTS.
CONTROL ROOM'S JUST UP AHEAD.
THANK YOU FOR DRAGGING JENKINS BACK FROM HIS SUICIDE MISSION, ALAN.
MY PLEASURE
BUT I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THE DRONES REPORT APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED VAMPIRES WITHIN OUR VICINITY

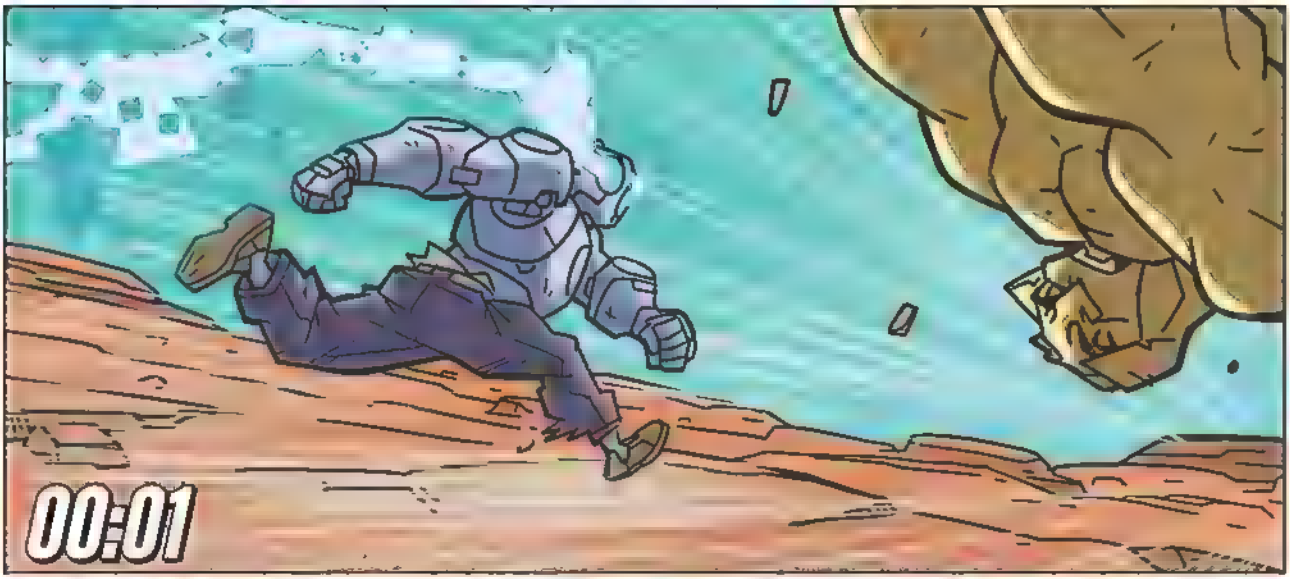

I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK TRACING ZORTH-ODIC INTERACTIONS ACROSS THE HYPERDIMENSIONAL CHASM ON YOUR OWN.
WE'RE NOT COMPROMISING OUR SYSTEMS WITH YOUR SOFTWARE!
NOTES
UNKNOWN LOCATION
THAT IS YOUR ONLY OPTION.
PERHAPS YOU COULD EMPLOY A MAGNIFYING GLASS AND A BIT OF WIRE?
IT'S AS LIKELY TO WORK AS ANYTHING ELSE YOU CONCOCT WITHOUT MY HELP.
WE CAN SEND YOU THE DATA TO RUN YOUR PROGRAM ON YOUR OWN MACHINE.
THAT'LL TAKE TIME WE DON'T HAVE.
NONSENSE!
MY COMPUTER BORROWS INFORMATION FROM THE FUTURE TO COMPLETE ITS CALCULATIONS BEFORE THEY'VE BEGUN!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
IT'S A PARADOX!
OBVIOUSLY.
THAT'S WHAT THE REVERSE PARADOXMOSIS PUMP IS FOR.
I WANT TO ASK HOW THAT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'LL SHOW ME A BOX FULL OF OLD REFRIGERATOR PARTS.
DO NOT BE ABSURD.
THERE'S ALSO HALF A MICROWAVE.
FREEZ-O

TESLADYNE INSTITUTE JUST OUTSIDE OF SILO 2
I CAN'T DECIDE.
DO I LET MY MINIONS R.IP YOU APART NOW?
OR DO I LET YOU LIVE TO SEE YOUR WORLD DROWN IN BLOOD?
YOU EVER GET TIRED OF TALKING?
FORGIVE ME, ROBO.
THE VOCABULARY OF THESE CREATURES IS LIMITED TO THE OCCASIONAL GRUNT.
CONVERSATION IS STILL SOMETHING OF A NOVELTY.
THAT'S SUPER.
I'M GOING TO KICK YOUR HEAD CLEAN OFF.
MAYBE YOU WILL.
BUT THAT WON'T STOP WHAT'S COMING.

A BILLION VAMPIRES WILL FLOOD YOUR WORLD.
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHEN.
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHERE.
IT'S A WAR WITH A MILLION FRONTS.
AND YOU CAN'T HOPE TO DEFEND AGAINST EVEN A FRACTION OF IT.
I'LL ADMIT IT'S A GOOD PLAN.
BUT I HAVE ONE TOO.
OH, DO TELL.
WELL, I GOT A NEW HEART.
AND FOR FIVE SECONDS IT CAN DO THIS.
SHOOT!!!


KTOOOM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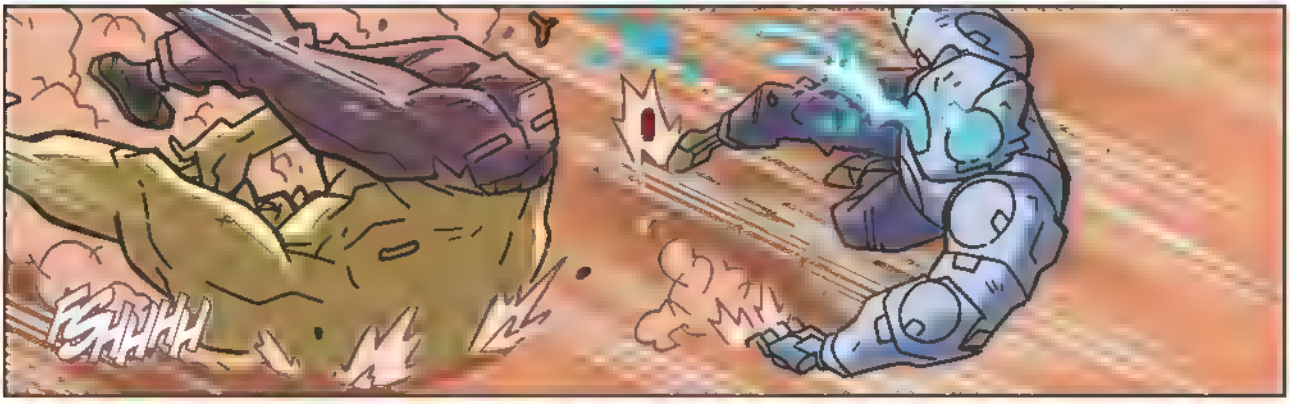
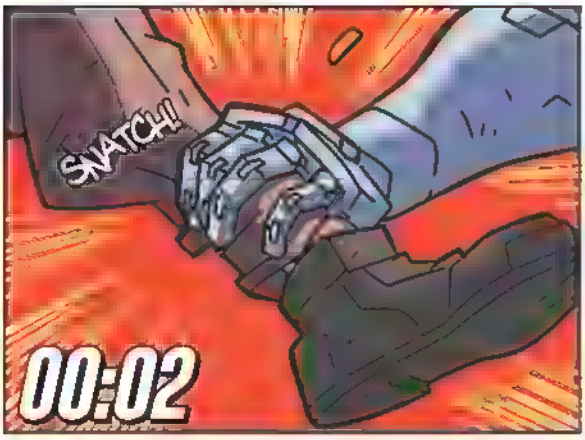
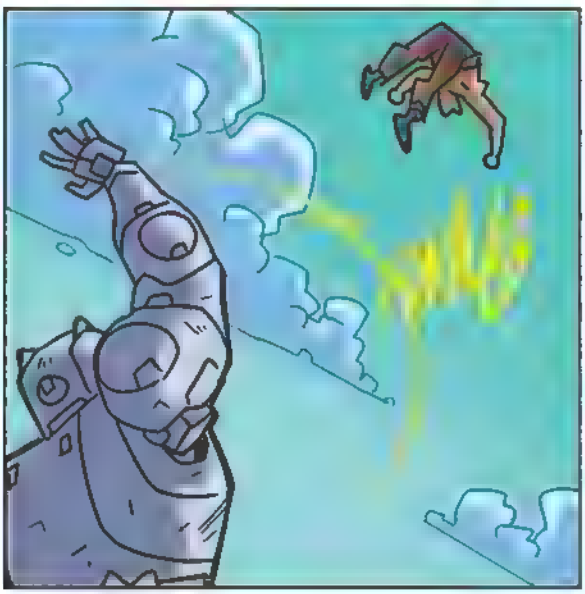
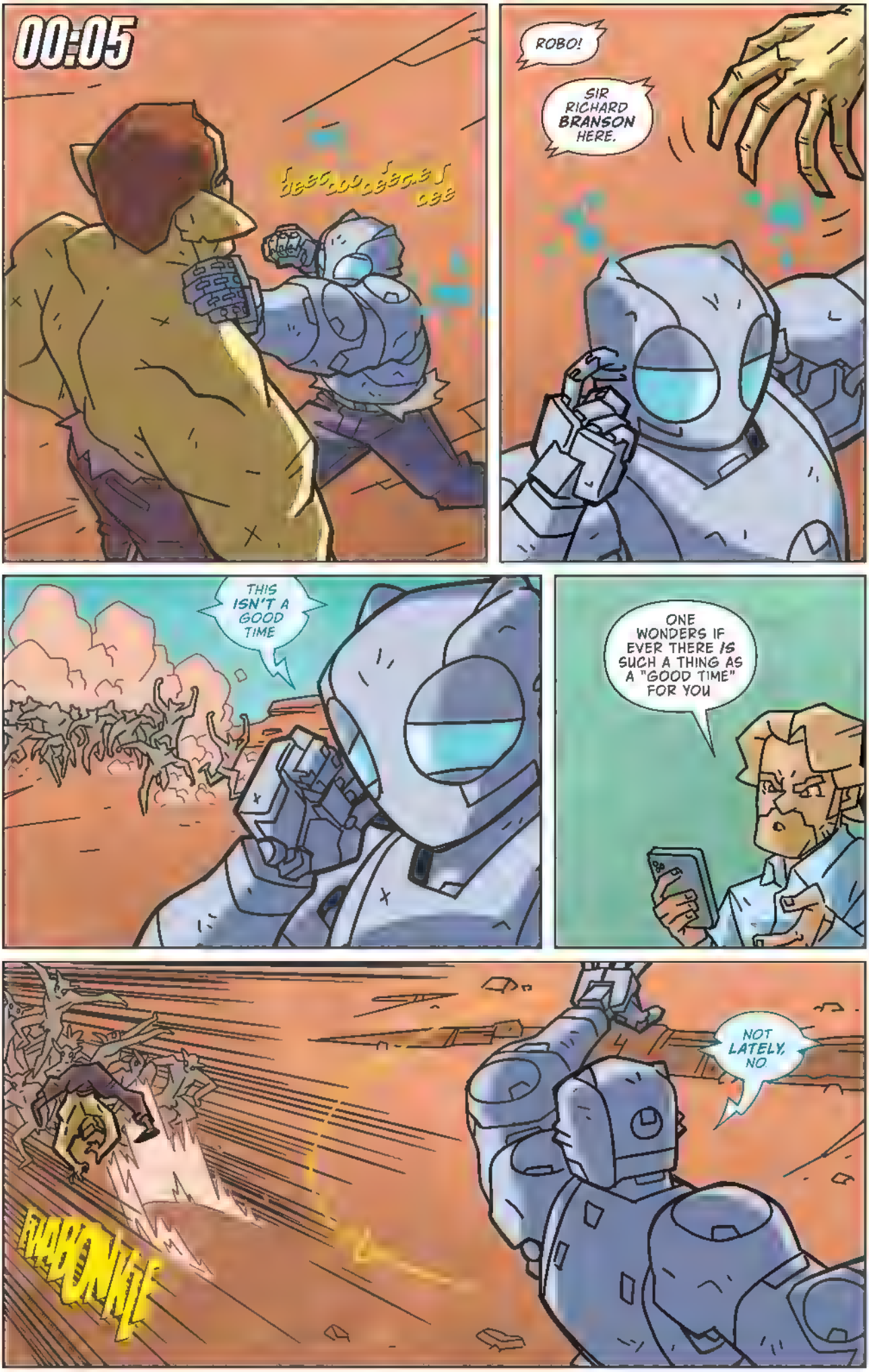

FSHHHH

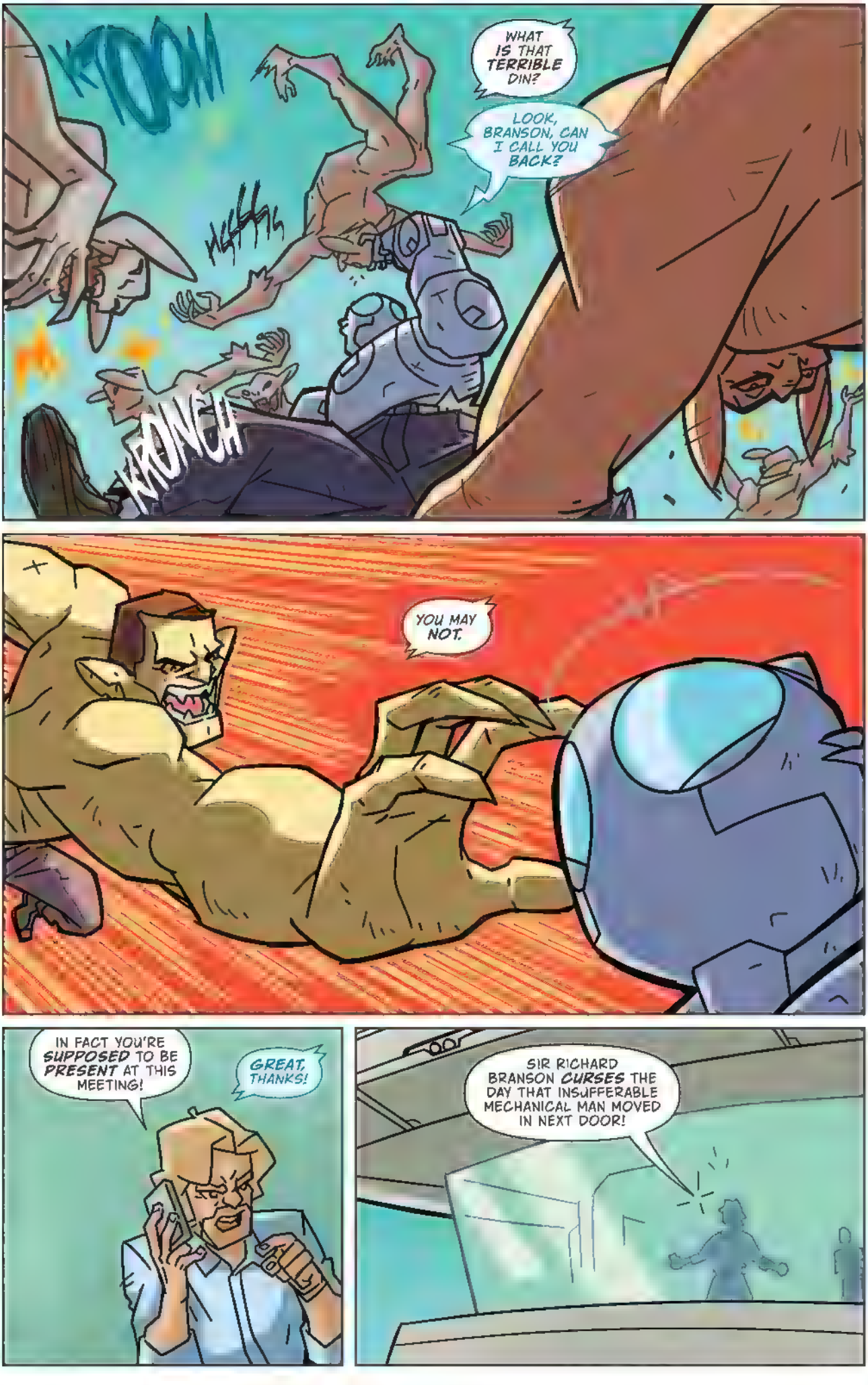

SNATCH!
00:02



00:03

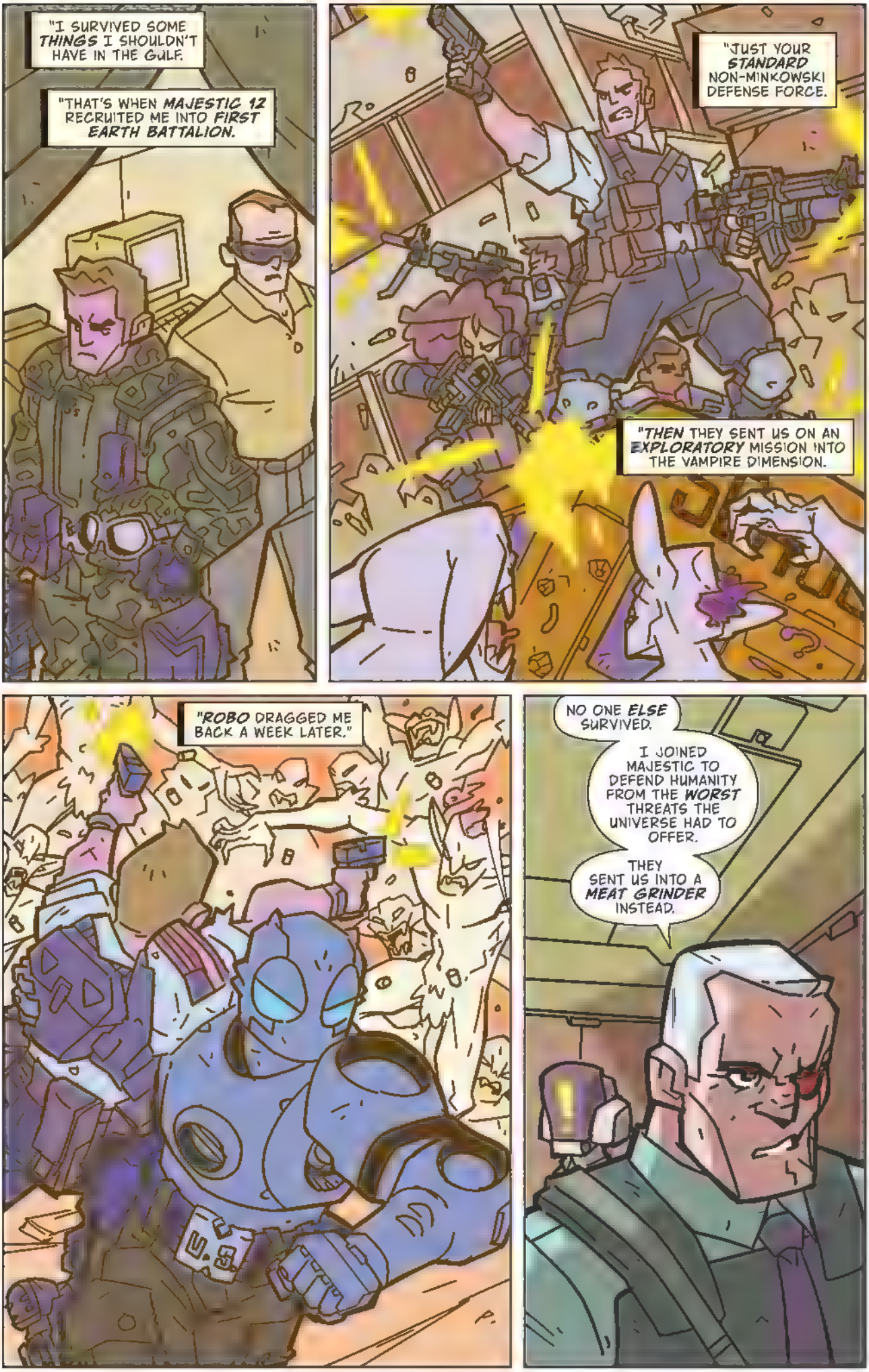
00:04
KAHOOM
AND THERE'S A RADIO IN MY HEAD.
SO, I'VE BEEN TALKING WITH THE SMARTEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.
AND THEY KNOW HOW TO STOP YOUR LITTLE INVASIONS.


00:05
ROBO!
SIR RICHARD BRANSON HERE.
THIS ISN'T A GOOD TIME
ONE WONDERS IF EVER THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A "GOOD TIME" FOR YOU
NOT LATELY, NO
KABONK!


KTOOM
WHAT IS THAT TERRIBLE DIN?
LOOK, BRANSON, CAN I CALL YOU BACK?
KRONCH
YOU MAY NOT.
IN FACT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING!
GREAT, THANKS!
SIR RICHARD BRANSON CURSES THE DAY THAT INSUFFERABLE MECHANICAL MAN MOVED IN NEXT DOOR!

IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN TYPICAL AMERICAN RUDENESS FOR ATOMIC ROBO TO ESCAPE THE REACH OF THE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION.
PREPARE THE DOCUMENTS.
WE SHALL GO TO HIM!
LAUGHING SCORPION. SITREP.
DRONE TRACKING CONFIRMS VAMPIRES CONTINUE TO AMASS OUTSIDE.
HRN.

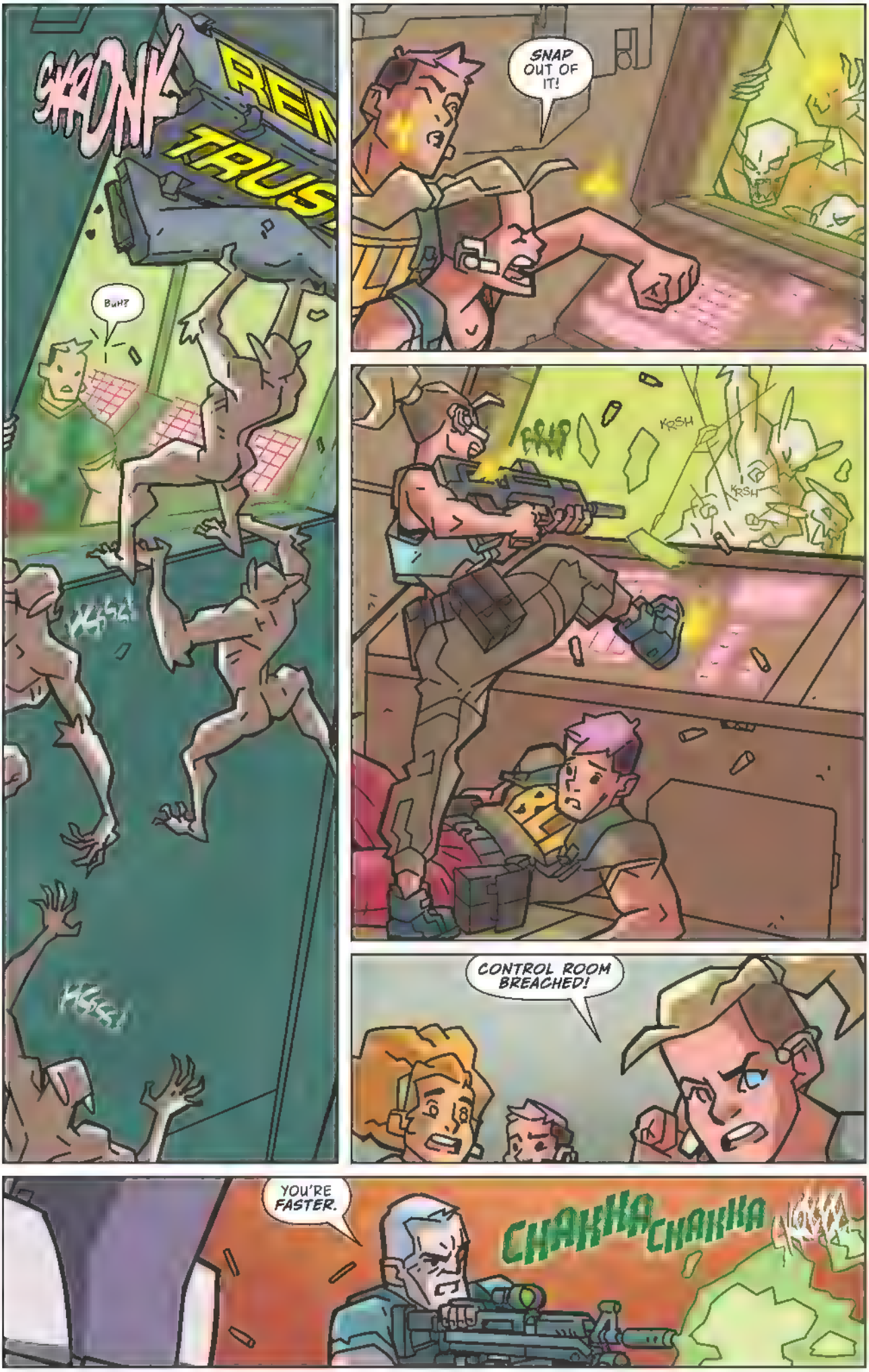
ALAN, YOU'RE WITH ME.
RIDE OR DIE, S.R.
WE'LL DEFEND THE ENTRANCE.
THE REST OF YOU STAY HERE AND SAVE THE WORLD.
REMEMBER WHAT I TAUGHT YOU, SCORP.
CALL MY TARGETS. USE CONTROLLED BURSTS.
GOOD MAN.
YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOUR CODENAME.
THAT'S RIGHT.
AHH NOT?


"I SURVIVED SOME *THINGS* I SHOULDN'T HAVE IN THE GULF.
"THAT'S WHEN *MAJESTIC 12* RECRUITED ME INTO *FIRST EARTH BATTALION.*
"JUST YOUR *STANDARD* NON-MINKOWSKI DEFENSE FORCE.
"*THEN* THEY SENT US ON AN *EXPLORATORY* MISSION INTO THE VAMPIRE DIMENSION.
"*ROBO* DRAGGED ME BACK A WEEK LATER."
NO ONE *ELSE* SURVIVED.
I JOINED MAJESTIC TO DEFEND HUMANITY FROM THE *WORST* THREATS THE UNIVERSE HAD TO OFFER.
THEY SENT US INTO A *MEAT GRINDER* INSTEAD.

IS THAT WHEN YOU LEFT MAJESTIC?
YES.
MY CODENAME IS THE ONLY THING I KEPT.
BEEN WITH ROBO EVER SINCE.
HE DOESN'T SEND GOOD MEN TO DIE IN HIS PLACE.
ROBO HOLDS THE LINE.
AND YOU HAVE TO HELP HIM, SCORP.
NO ONE ELSE CAN.
YOU CAN.
NOT FOREVER.
STONK

DRONES REPORT THE VAMPIRES ARE MAKING THEIR MOVE.
WE HAVE TO BUY AS *MUCH* TIME AS WE CAN
DON'T FALL BACK UNTIL I *SAY* SO.
KTONG
KTONG
SKRRT
HSSS

BRAKKA DAKKA
HOW'RE WE GONNA BOOT THESE VAMPIRES FROM OUR DIMENSION IF ROBO CAN'T REACH THE GENERATOR?
DON'T WORRY, MARGOT.
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE WE'LL BLOW OURSELVES UP IF IT WORKS ANYWAY.
OKAY, MOTION TO REMOVE OLIVIA FROM PEP TALK DUTY?
ROBO WILL MAKE IT, BEN.
JUST MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY WHEN HE DOES.
PLUS THERE'S BOMBERS INBOUND AND WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THEY'LL SHOW UP?
SO EVERYTHING COULD WORK OUT GREAT AND WE'LL STILL DIE!
I ASK FOR SO LITTLE

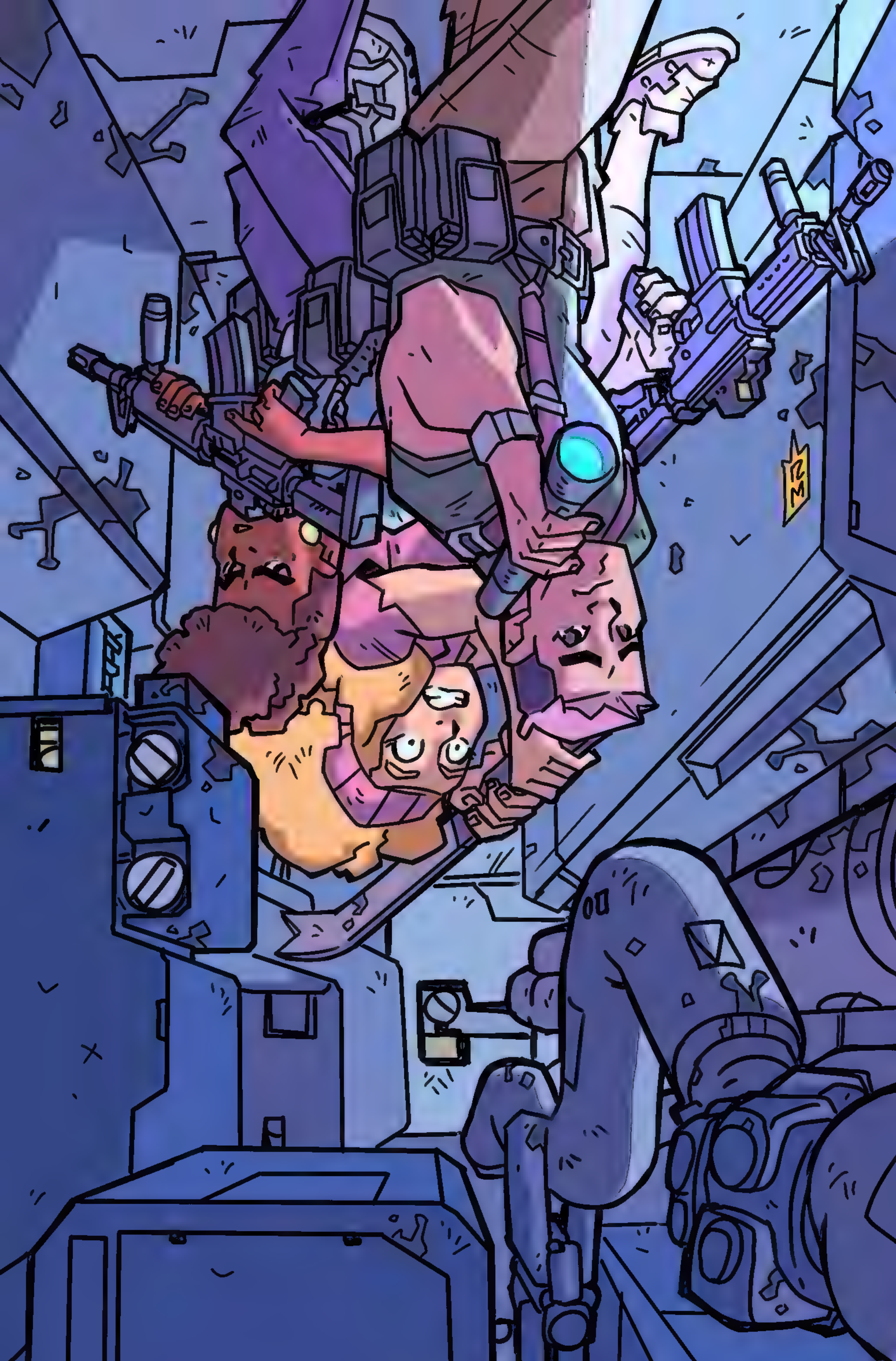

SHRONK
RE
TRUS
Buh?
SNAP OUT OF IT!
BRAP
KRSH
KRSH
CONTROL ROOM BREACHED!
YOU'RE FASTER.
CHAKKA CHAKKA

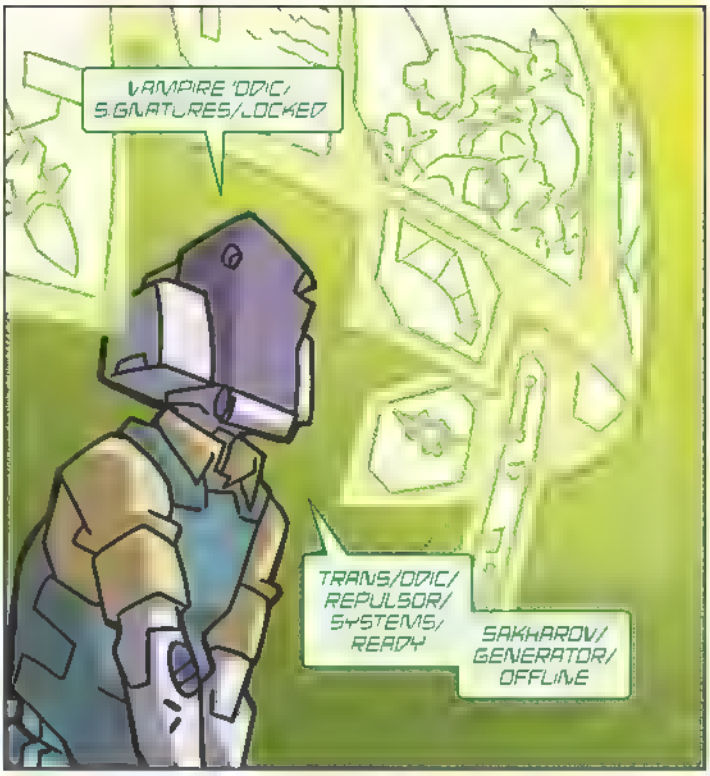
SOLAR TOWER, YOU'RE BREAKING UP!
TALK TO US, GUYS!
CHAKKA CHAKKA
LAUGHING SCORPION REINFORCING SOLAR TOWER.
MOVE, SCORP!
DAKKA BRAKKA
BRAP BRA
BRAP BRAP
BRAPPA

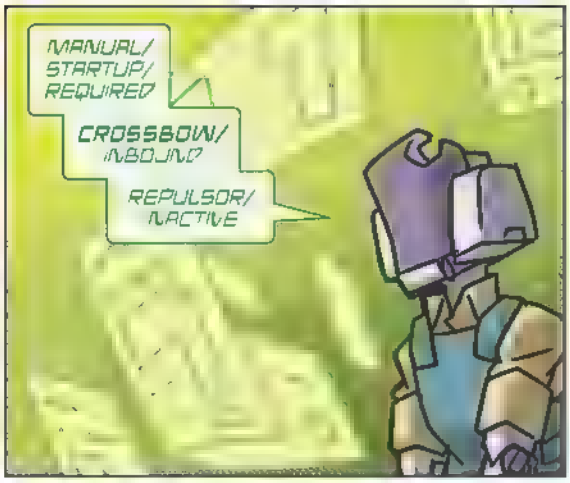
BRAKKA
DAMMIT, SYSTEM'S REBOOTING.
WE HAVE TO SET THE CAPACITORS AGAIN!
THERE'S NO TIME.
WE CAN DO THIS.
WHAM!
BUT WE'LL CALL FOR EXTREME MEASURES.
BRAP
BRATTA
DAKKA

CAN'T COVER EVERY WINDOW!
BRAPPA
I HAVE A BAD IDEA
OVERRIDING WI-FI RESTRICTIONS.
DNK
BLAM
IT'S NOT GOING WELL FOR YOU, IS IT.
I'VE BEEN BETTER, YEAH
YOUR FRIENDS WILL SOON BE DEAD.
I CAN HEAR IT IN MY BLOOD.
TOTAL OBJECTIVITY VORTEX
T'S/TOO MUCH

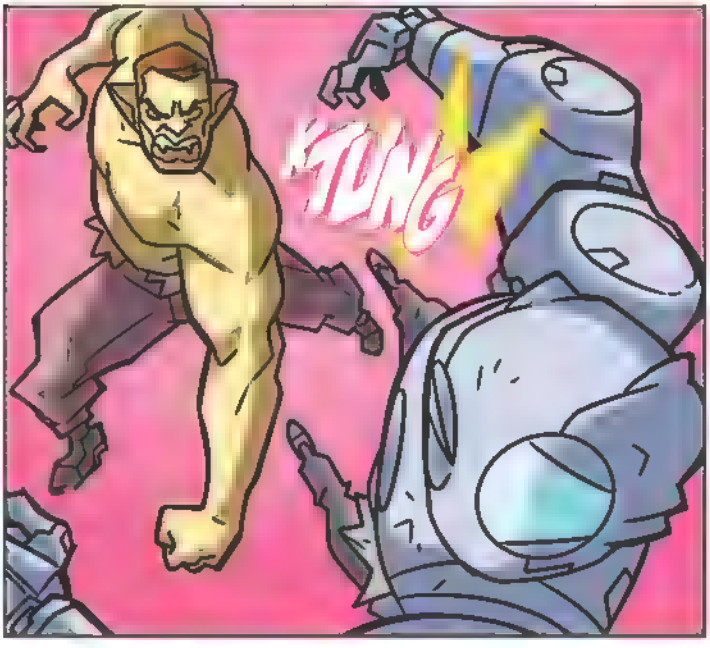
SAKHAROV/ OFFLINE
SOLAR/ARRAY/ OFFLINE
ROBO/CRITICAL
MC130/COMBAT, TALON/MISSION/ DESIGNATE/CROSS-BOW/EN/ROUTE
LOCAL/SEISMOGRAPH/ INDICATES/ILLEGAL/ MINING/OPERATION
ALAN? IS THAT YOU?
CALIBRATING/ CAPACITOR/FOR/ SAKHAROV, SURGE
REALIGNING SOLAR/ ARRAY/FOR 'DOC/ PROJECTION
C'MON!
SAKHAROV/OFFLINE/ MANUAL/STARTUP/ REQUIRED
CROSSBOW/ ASSUMING/ BOMBING/RUN/ APPROACH
APPROXIMATELY/ FOUR/MINUTES/ UNTIL/NUCLEAR/ DETONATION
TO BE CONCLUDED...




VAMPIRE 'ODIC/ S.GNATURES/LOCKED
TRANS/ODIC/ REPULSOR/ SYSTEMS/ READY
SAKHAROV/ GENERATOR/ OFFLINE

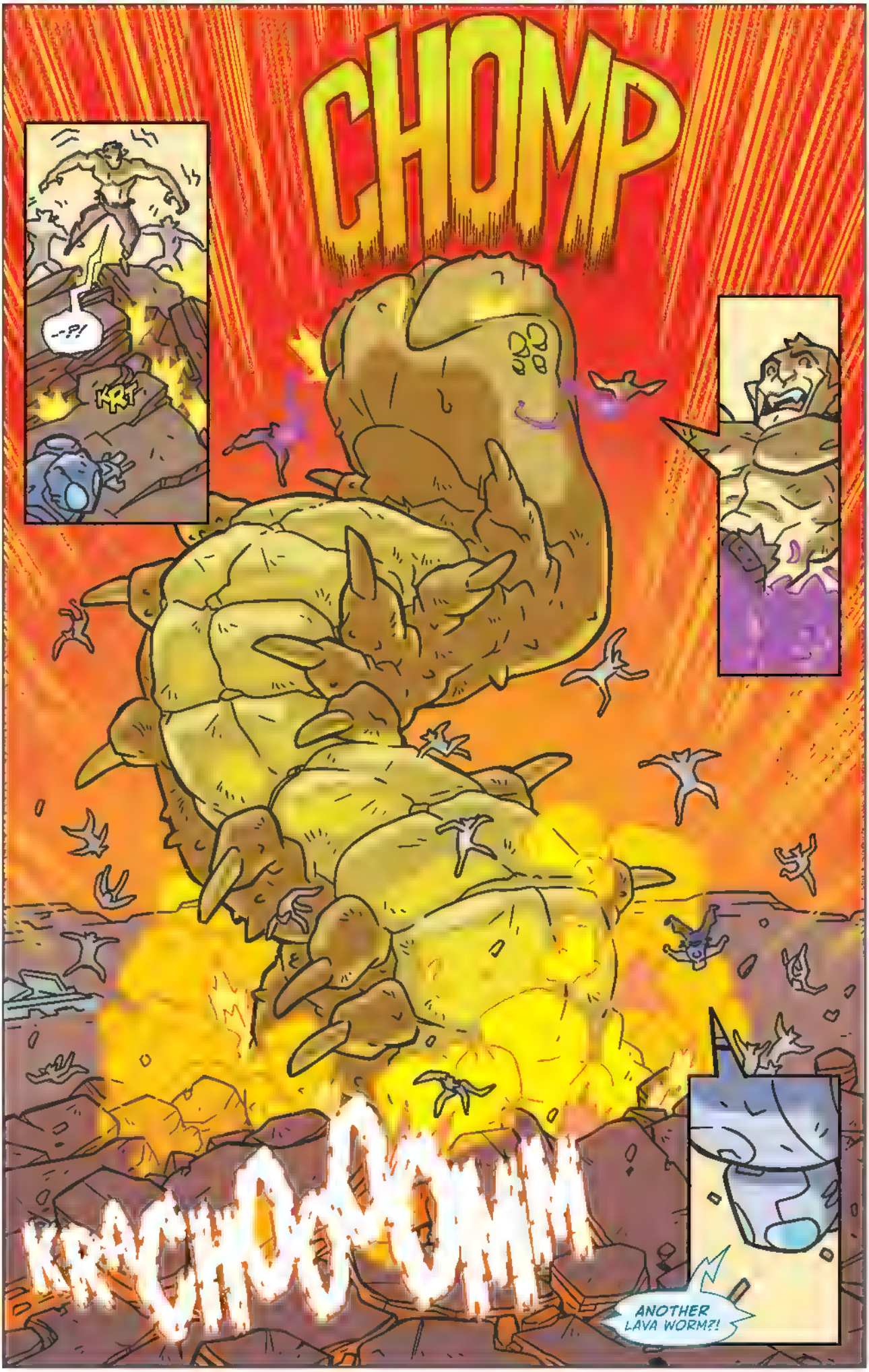

MANUAL/ STARTUP/ REQUIRED
CROSSBOW/ INBOUND
REPULSOR/ INACTIVE

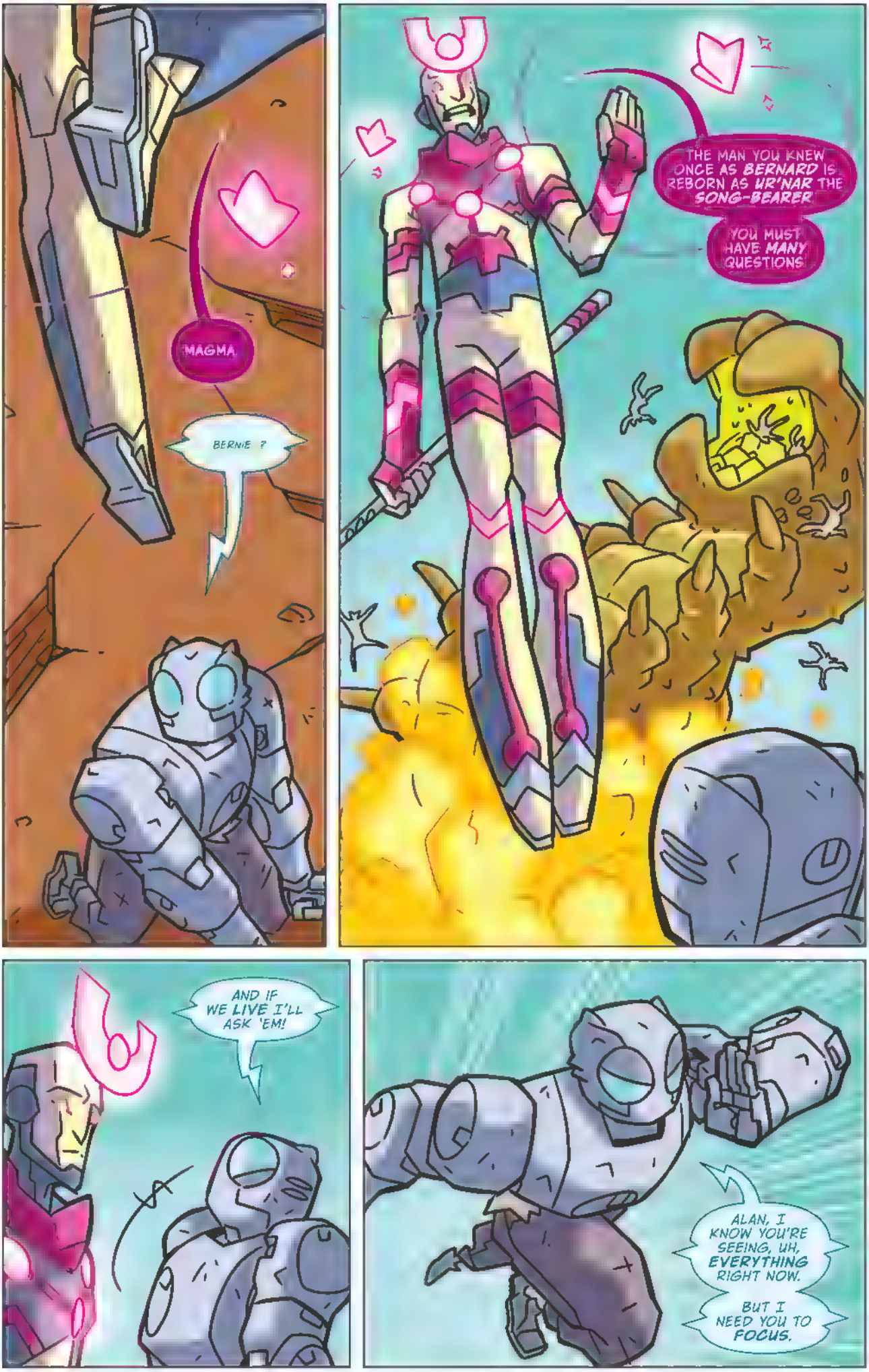
HISSSS
HISSSS
HISSSS
THERE'S TOO MANY!


THUNG

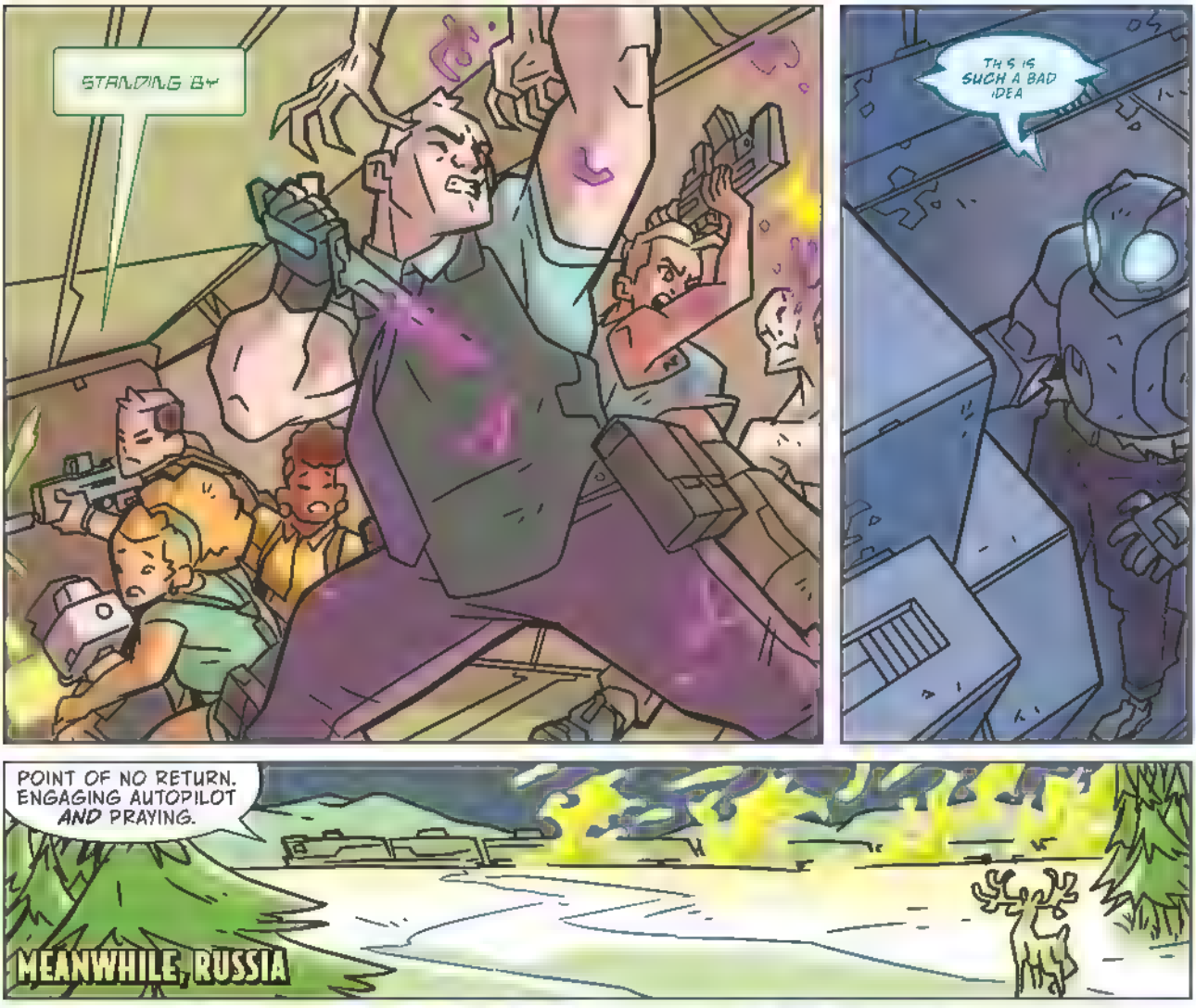
I ONLY WISH I COULD MAKE YOU PERSONALLY WITNESS EVERY DEATH--

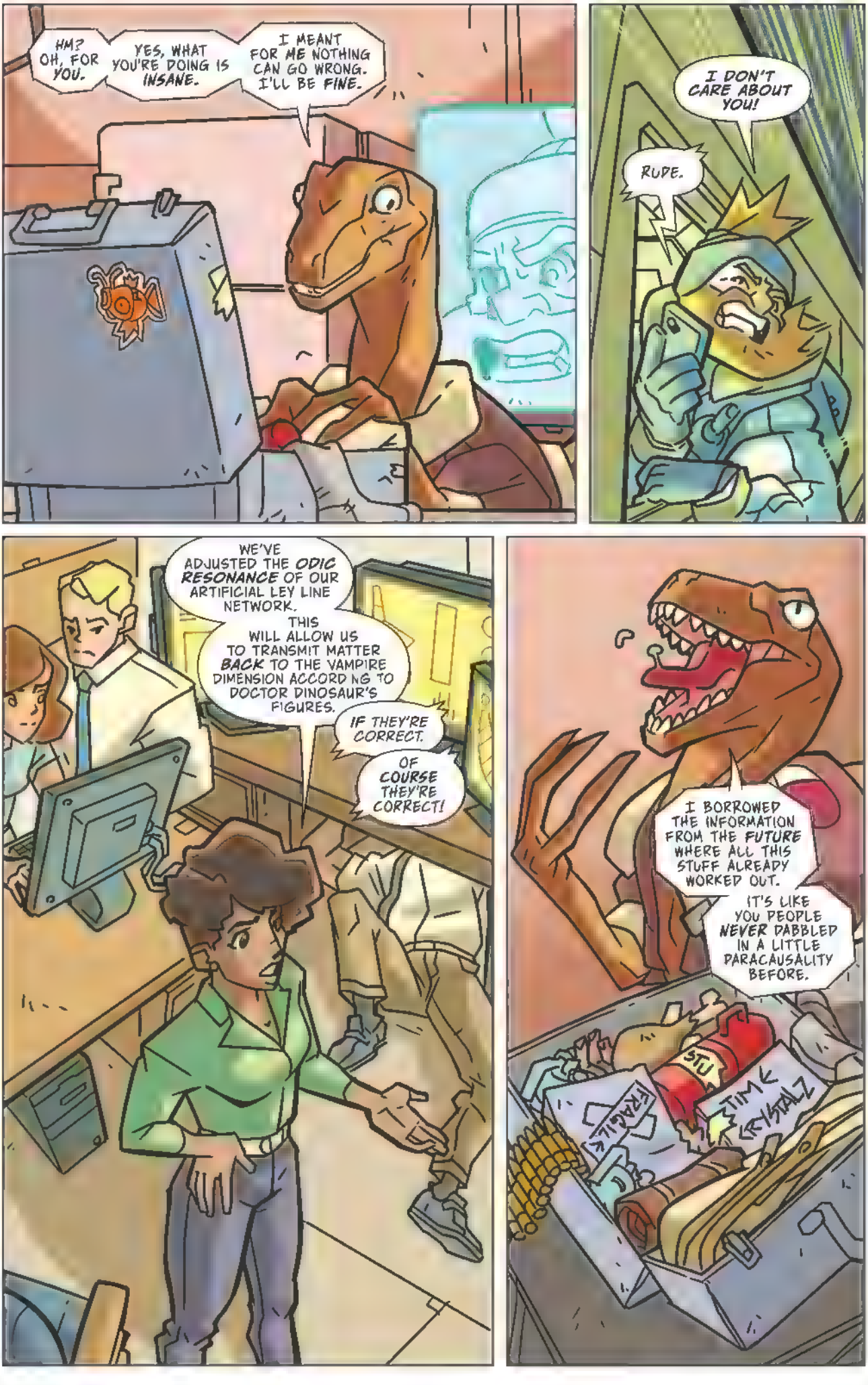
THREE/MINUTES/ TO/TOTAL/NUCLEAR/ ANNIHILATION
SEISMIC/ ACTIVITY/ INCREASING
RECOMMEND/ EARTHQUAKE/ SAFETY/ PROTOCOLS

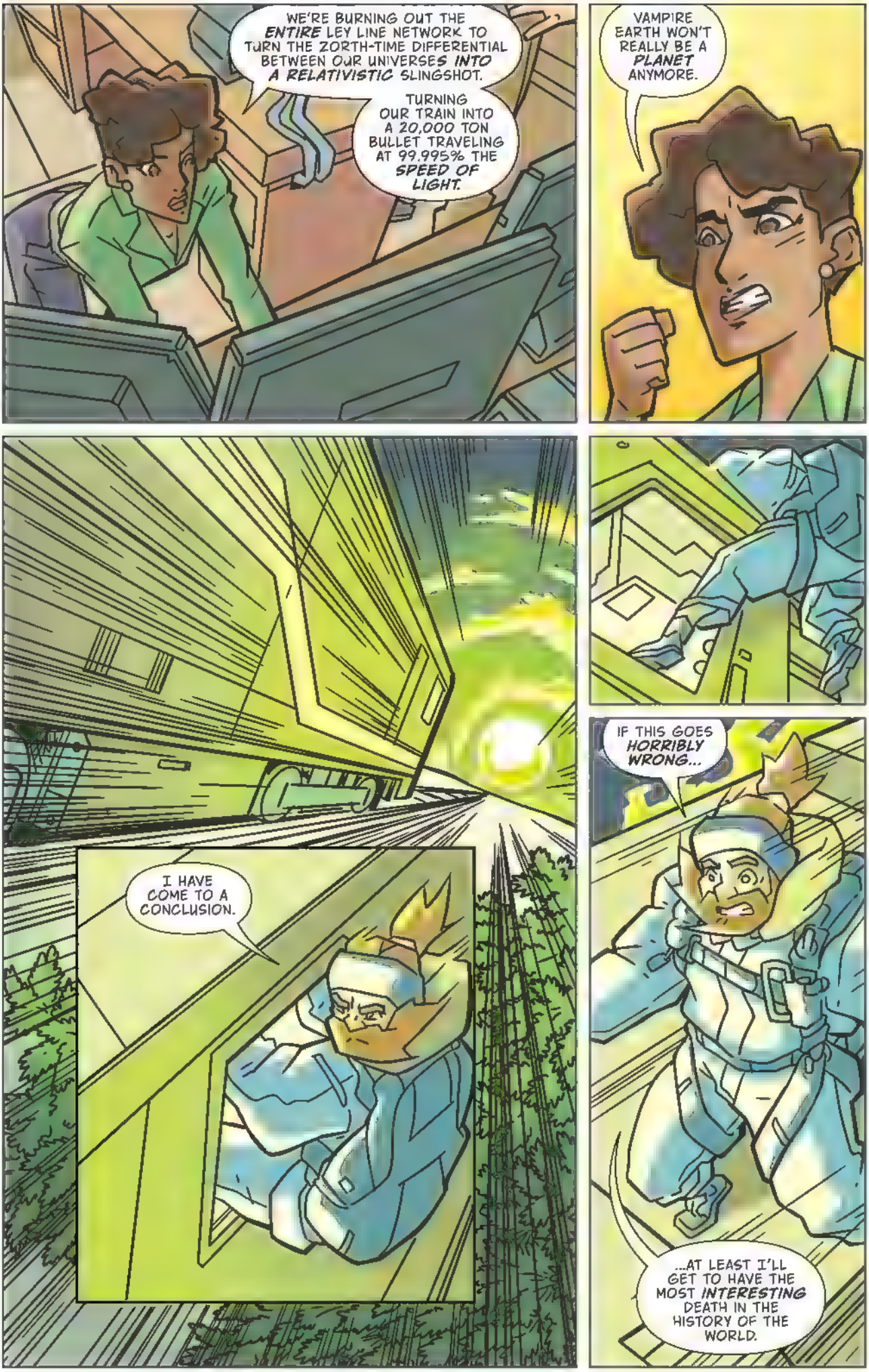

CHOMP
--P!
KRT
KRAKOOOOOM!
ANOTHER LAVA WORM?!


MAGMA
BERNIE ?
THE MAN YOU KNEW ONCE AS BERNARD IS REBORN AS UR'NAR THE SONG-BEARER.
YOU MUST HAVE MANY QUESTIONS.
AND IF WE LIVE I'LL ASK 'EM!
ALAN, I KNOW YOU'RE SEEING, UH, EVERYTHING RIGHT NOW.
BUT I NEED YOU TO FOCUS.

DID YOU KNOW AT THIS VERY MOMENT DOCTOR BROUGHTON IS ATTEMPTING A DANGEROUS ZORTHODIC INTERACTION USING A TRAIN
JUST FOCUS, ALAN.
HOW LONG UNTIL THE BOMBER REACHES US?
TWO MINUTES AND 54 SECONDS
TWO TAKE AT LEAST FOUR MINUTES FOR YOU TO SAFELY START THE GENERATOR
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT
JUST BE READY TO PUT WHAT I'M GIVING YOU INTO THE ODIC FIELD.


STANDING BY
THIS IS SUCH A BAD IDEA
POINT OF NO RETURN. ENGAGING AUTOPILOT AND PRAYING.
MEANWHILE, RUSSIA
DON'T WORRY. NOTHING CAN GO WRONG!
ARE YOU KIDDING?
EVERYTHING CAN GO WRONG!
I'M ABOUT TO PARASAIL OFF A TRAIN DRIVING INTO AN INTERDIMENSIONAL GATEWAY!


HM? OH, FOR YOU.
YES, WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS INSANE.
I MEANT FOR ME NOTHING CAN GO WRONG. I'LL BE FINE.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU!
RUDE.
WE'VE ADJUSTED THE ODIC RESONANCE OF OUR ARTIFICIAL LEY LINE NETWORK.
THIS WILL ALLOW US TO TRANSMIT MATTER BACK TO THE VAMPIRE DIMENSION ACCORD NG TO DOCTOR DINOSAUR'S FIGURES.
IF THEY'RE CORRECT.
OF COURSE THEY'RE CORRECT!
I BORROWED THE INFORMATION FROM THE FUTURE WHERE ALL THIS STUFF ALREADY WORKED OUT.
IT'S LIKE YOU PEOPLE NEVER DABBLED IN A LITTLE PARACAUSALITY BEFORE.
STU
FRAGILE
TIM CRYSTALZ


WE'RE BURNING OUT THE ENTIRE LEY LINE NETWORK TO TURN THE ZORTH-TIME DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN OUR UNIVERSES INTO A RELATIVISTIC SLINGSHOT.
TURNING OUR TRAIN INTO A 20,000 TON BULLET TRAVELING AT 99.995% THE SPEED OF LIGHT.
VAMPIRE EARTH WON'T REALLY BE A PLANET ANYMORE.
I HAVE COME TO A CONCLUSION.
IF THIS GOES HORRIBLY WRONG...
...AT LEAST I'LL GET TO HAVE THE MOST INTERESTING DEATH IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

ALAN GET READY.
WE'RE TURNING THE ENTIRE TESLADYNE ELECTRICAL GRID INTO A LIGHTNING GUN.
IT'S UP TO YOU TO DISPERSE THAT ENERGY INTO THE ODIC FIELD.
I'M READY, BUT, THE BOMBER/
ONE CRISIS AT A TIME.
ZWWWD
KRAKK
WOOMP
DON'T DIE, DON'T DIE, DON'T DIE.

REX? REX CANNON?
FUNNY HOW LIFE NEVER TURNS OUT HOW YOU EXPECT
SHNK
ZANTHAGNA
WWSHOOOM
TRANS ODIC/ REPULSOR/ SYSTEM PRIMED
DISCHARGING ALIEN/ODIC/ SIGNATURES
FWABWOOOOM

FWAAAA
IS IT WORKING? ARE WE ALIVE?
CAN THIS COUNT AS OUR FINAL?
WELL, THE TRAIN'S GONE AND THE LEY LINES ARE TOO.
DID WE HIT THE VAMPIRE DIMENSION?
HELLO?
DOCTOR DINOSAUR?

THEY THINK *THIS* IS DEFEAT?
BUT THEY CANNOT STOP OUR *GREAT MACHINE* FROM PIERCING THE VEIL BETWEEN OUR REALMS!
WE WILL RETURN!
WE WILL *FEAST* UPON THEIR STILL BEATING...
...HEARTS?

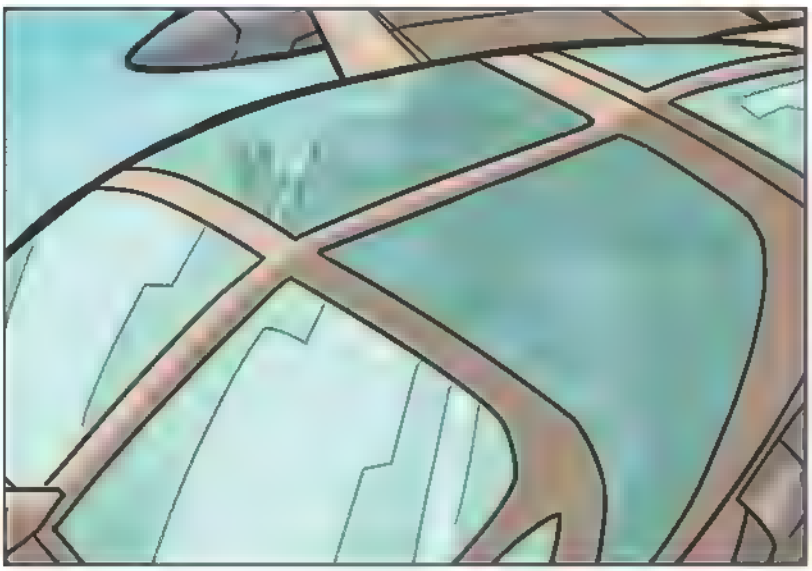
VAMPIRE EARTH

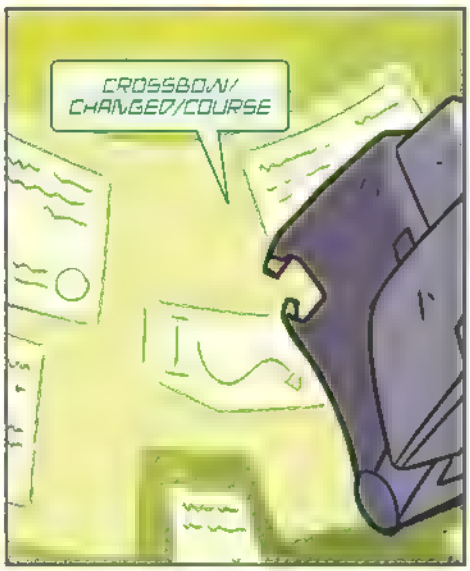
NAVIGATOR TO CAPTAIN, APPROACHING TARGET. DISTANCE, ONE ZERO MILES.
SWITCH FROM GREEN GRID TO TARGET ORANGE.
30,000FT ABOVE JORNADA DEL MUERTO, NEW MEXICO.
ROGER. READY FOR FINAL BOMB RUN CHECK.
SHROOOOSH
YOU ARE ORDERED TO CHANGE COURSE IMMEDIATELY!
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

THIS IS SIR RICHARD BRANSON!
AND YOU WILL CHANGE COURSE!
ON WHAT AUTHORITY?

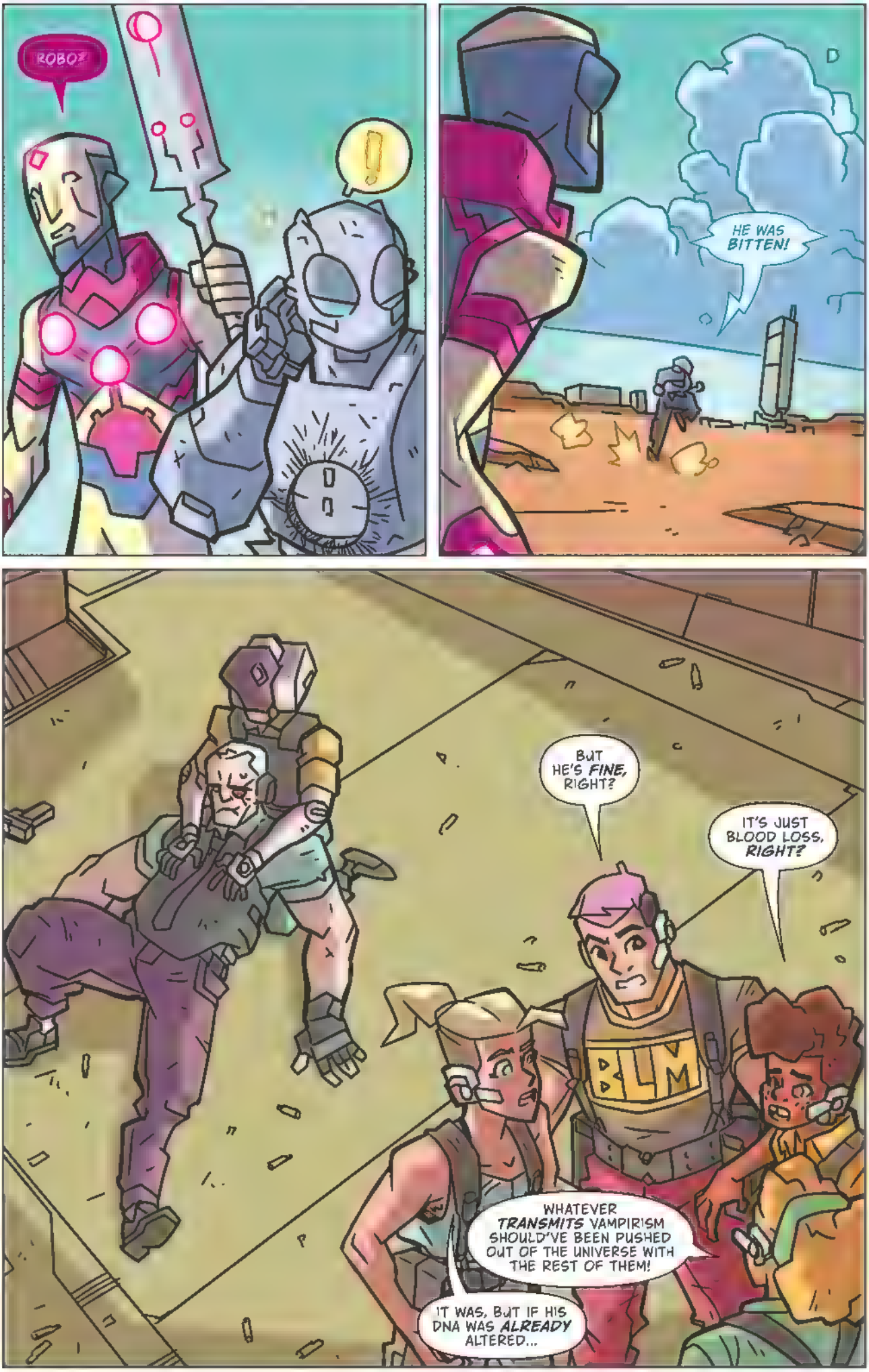
THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY OF ALL: THE JORNADA DEL MUERTO HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION!
AND YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE WHITE SANDS FACILITY RESTRICTED AIR SPACE!

AS WELL, NEIGHBORHOOD NOISE AND AIR POLLUTION GUIDELINES PROHIBIT THE USE OF MULTI-ENGINE AIR VEHICLES AFTER 4:00PM!
FURTHERMORE, THE ORDNANCE ORDINANCE STRICTLY FORBIDS THE DEPLOYMENT OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS WITHOUT EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE HOA!

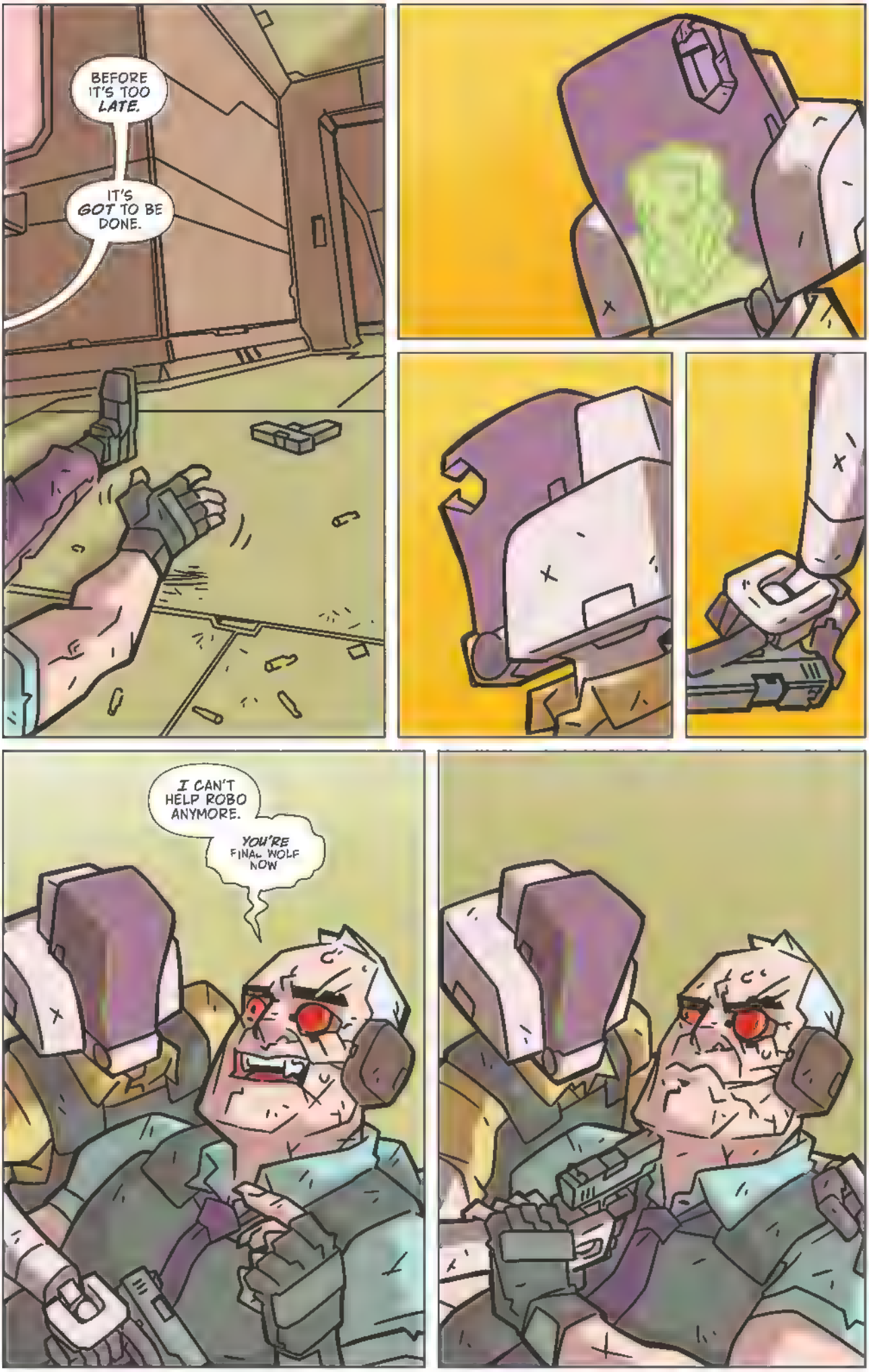


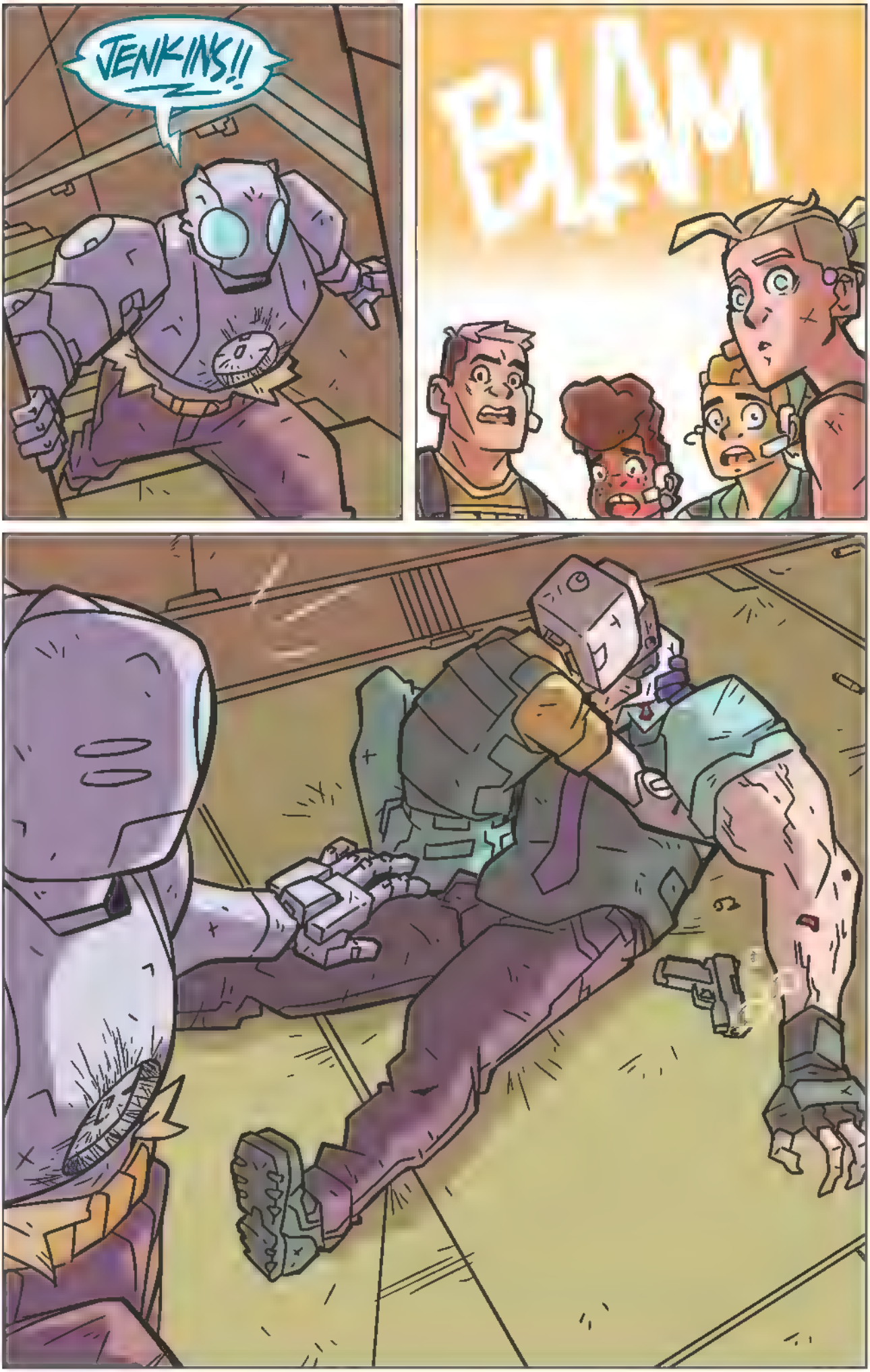

CROSSBOW/ CHANGED/COURSE

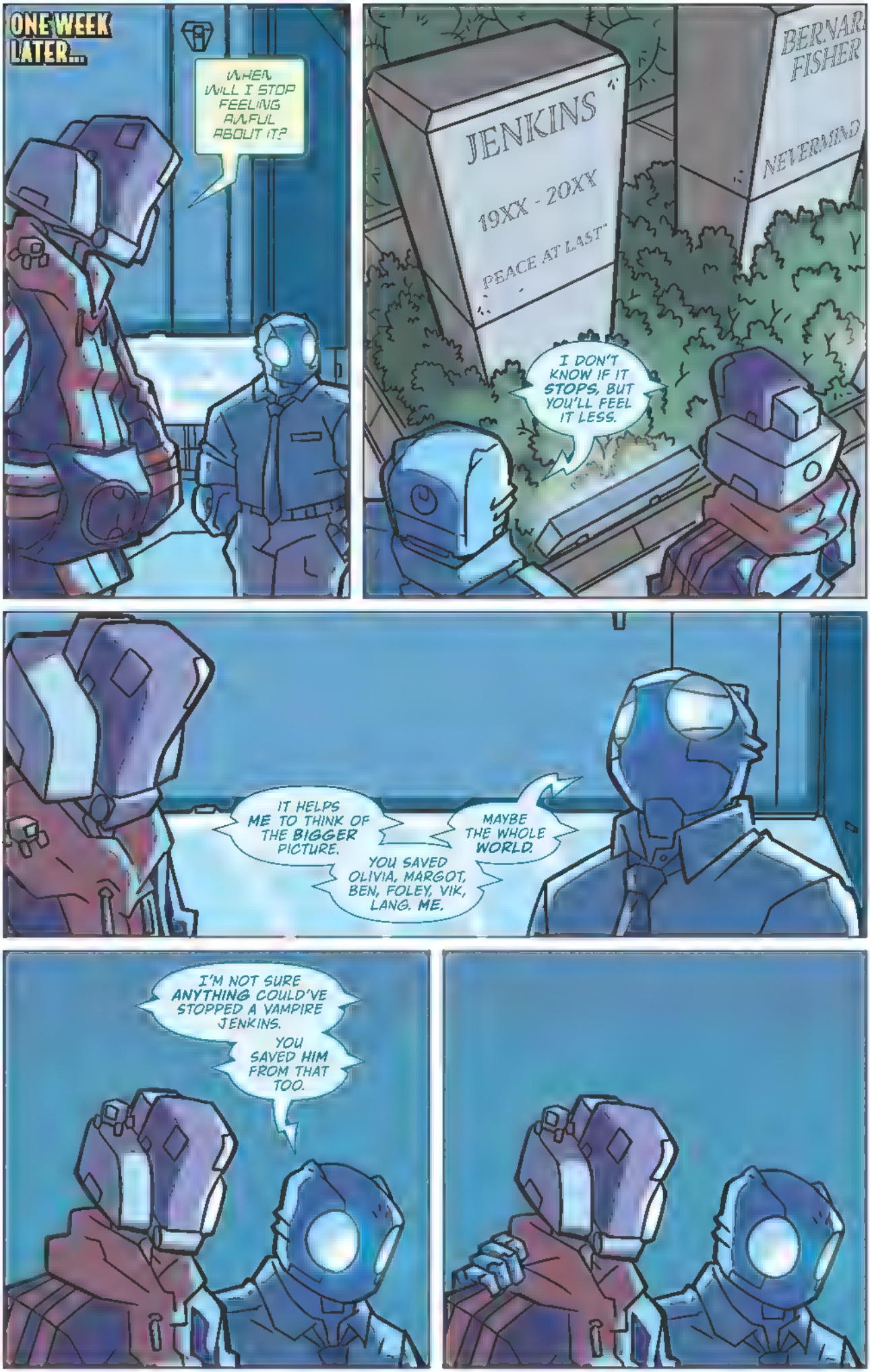
DAMN.
MISTER JENKINS?
THE OL' PHASE THE VAMPIRES OUT OF THE UNIVERSE TRICK
IT'S A CLASSIC.
AND YOU DID IT WITHOUT ANY CRYSTALS
HAD TO IMPROVISE. WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMING.
OR ALIVE.
OR LIKE THIS.

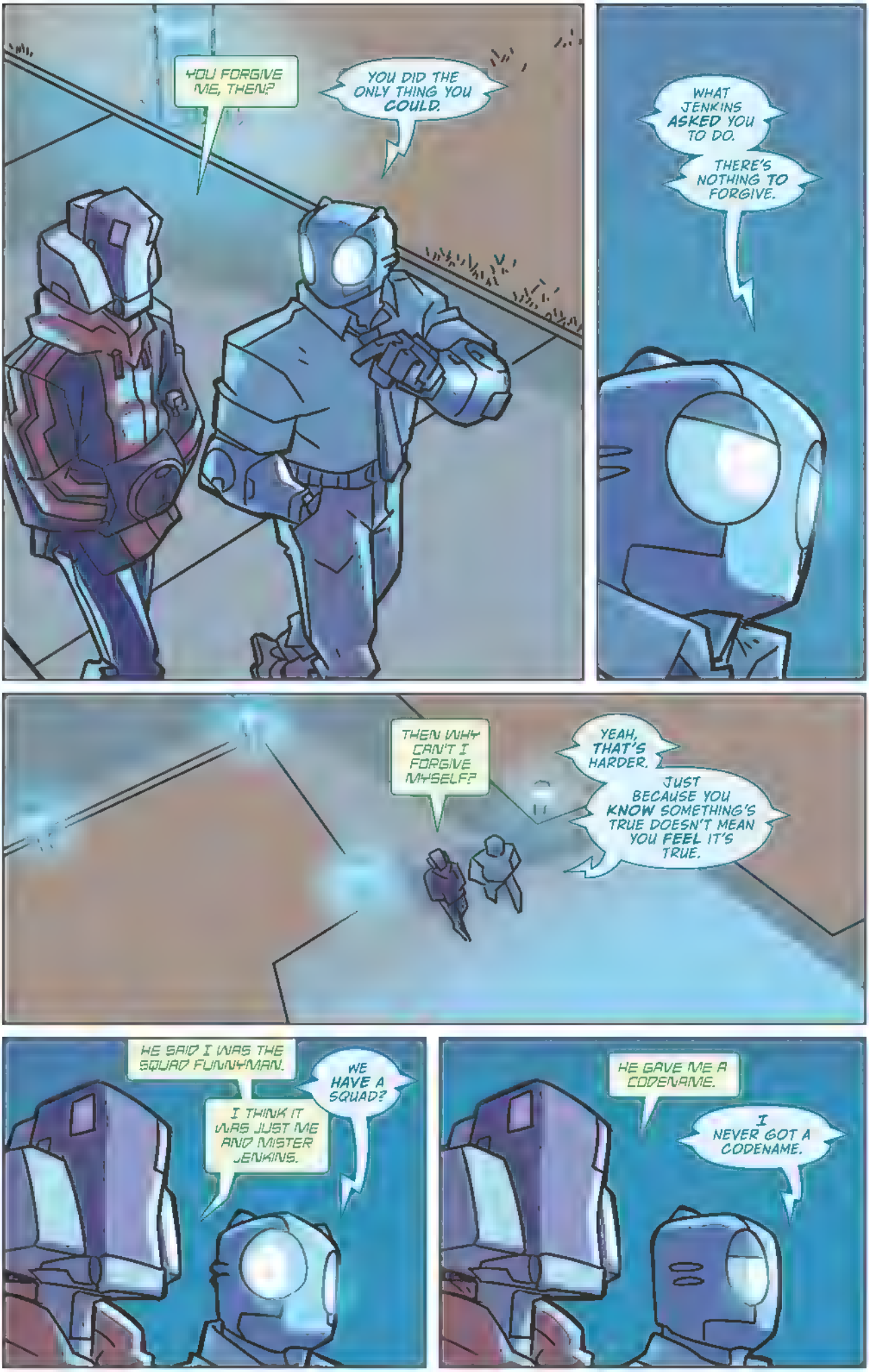

ROBOT
!
HE WAS BITTEN!
BUT HE'S FINE, RIGHT?
IT'S JUST BLOOD LOSS, RIGHT?
BLM
WHATEVER TRANSMITS VAMPIRISM SHOULD'VE BEEN PUSHED OUT OF THE UNIVERSE WITH THE REST OF THEM!
IT WAS, BUT IF HIS DNA WAS ALREADY ALTERED...

WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING.
ROBO WILL THINK OF SOMETHING
"I KNOW HOW THIS GOES.
"THERE'S NO TURNING BACK."
ANOTHER ODIC PULSE!
THE GRID IS FRIED.
YOU HAVE TO DO IT
"I DON'T WANT TO."
"THEY CAN'T.
"THEY WON'T."


BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
IT'S GOT TO BE DONE.
I CAN'T HELP ROBO ANYMORE.
YOU'RE FINAL WOLF NOW


JENKINS!!
BAM


ONE WEEK LATER...
WHEN WILL I STOP FEELING AWFUL ABOUT IT?
JENKINS
19XX - 20XY
"PEACE AT LAST"
BERNARD FISHER
NEVERMIND
I DON'T KNOW IF IT STOPS, BUT YOU'LL FEEL IT LESS.
IT HELPS ME TO THINK OF THE BIGGER PICTURE.
YOU SAVED OLIVIA, MARGOT, BEN, FOLEY, VIK, LANG. ME.
MAYBE THE WHOLE WORLD.
I'M NOT SURE ANYTHING COULD'VE STOPPED A VAMPIRE JENKINS.
YOU SAVED HIM FROM THAT TOO.


YOU FORGIVE ME, THEN?
YOU DID THE ONLY THING YOU COULD.
WHAT JENKINS ASKED YOU TO DO.
THERE'S NOTHING TO FORGIVE.
THEN WHY CAN'T I FORGIVE MYSELF?
YEAH, THAT'S HARDER.
JUST BECAUSE YOU KNOW SOMETHING'S TRUE DOESN'T MEAN YOU FEEL IT'S TRUE.
HE SAID I WAS THE SQUAD FUNNYMAN.
I THINK IT WAS JUST ME AND MISTER JENKINS.
WE HAVE A SQUAD?
HE GAVE ME A CODENAME.
I NEVER GOT A CODENAME.

DID JENKINS HAVE A CODENAME?
THAT'S CLASSIFIED.
HOME SWEET HOME.
THE END

A *TRAIN?*

THAT'S *IT?*

SENIOR STAFF APARTMENTS

FUNNY STORY. YOU *KNOW* HOW WE CAN LAUNCH A PROBE INTO ORBIT AT 20,000MPH?

BUT THEN WE USE GRAVITY TO *SLINGSHOT* IT AROUND A COUPLE PLANETS UNTIL IT'S GOING *200,000MPH?*

WELL, WE DID AN *ODIC* SLINGSHOT AROUND THE UNIVERSE THROUGH THE *ZORTH* AXIS.

OUR TRAIN WAS TRAVELING AT *APPROXIMATELY* 99.99% THE SPEED OF LIGHT WHEN IT CROSSED OVER.

WISH I COULD'VE BEEN THERE WHEN YOU FIGURED OUT THE MATH FOR *THAT* ONE.

FUNNY STORY ABOUT THAT *TOO.*

HAVEN'T YOU DISGUSTING APES INVENTED KNOCKING FIRST?!

UN-PUSH

OPEN

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE!

WE'RE DOING A *TEAM-UP.*

THIS IS WHERE I *LIVE* NOW.

YOU *SENT* ME TO THE *19TH CENTURY.*

YES, BUT IN MY *DEFENSE,* I HOPED YOU WOULD DIE.

HOW IS THAT A DEFENSE?!

IS IT NOT OBVIOUS? *YOU* GOT IN THE WAY.

AN *APOLOGY* WOULD NOT BE UNWELCOME.

YOU EXPECT *ME* TO APOLOGIZE FOR RUINING YOUR *MASS GENOCIDE?*

NO, NO, *NO.* I'M *SORRY,* BUT —

APOLOGY *ACCEPTED!*

THAT *WASN'T* AN APOLOGY!

TOO LATE. *NO BACKSIES!*

HE *HELPED* US.

DEFINE HELP.

REMEMBER THAT FUNNY STORY?

BUT THAT DOESN'T EXPLAIN *WHY* HE'S *HERE.*

IN *MY* ROOM.

OUR ROOM.

AND IT IS SIMPLE. I'M *JOINING* TESLADYNE.

THIS ISN'T HAPPENING.

PERHAPS YOU DID NOT HEAR.

I INVOKED *NO BACKSIES.*

THE END.